



## THE TIMES

## Tomorrow

Discerning drinking  
Welcome 1985  
with the  
finest vintage  
champagnes

Shopping sense  
Where to find  
the bargains  
in the New  
Year sales

Money-makers  
The small investor's  
guide to the  
best buys in  
the year ahead

Wait for it  
Miles Kingston makes  
some predictions  
which might  
just come true

## Portfolio

**£4,000 to  
be won**

Today's Times Portfolio  
prize is doubled to £4,000 as  
there was no winner yester-  
day. Today's list, page 16;  
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Information Service.

Afghanistan  
'infamy'  
says Reagan

President Reagan said yesterday  
the fifth anniversary of the  
Soviet invasion of Afghanistan  
was the anniversary of a "Day  
of Infamy" - a reference to  
Roosevelt's 1941 description of  
the Japanese attack on Pearl  
Harbour. Mr Reagan's denunciation  
was echoed in London by  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, but the  
Moscow media largely ignored  
the anniversary. Page 6

## House prices up

House prices rose by an average  
of 14 per cent in 1984,  
according to a survey by the  
Nationwide Building Society. Page 15

## NCB waits

Senior coal board officials are  
prepared to let the miners'  
strike last two more months  
before urging a sweeping  
reassessment of strategy. Page 2

## Battle victims

Thousands more battle-weary  
refugees are streaming into  
Thailand as Vietnamese and  
Cambodian forces prepare to  
storm the rebel Khmers' head-  
quarters. Page 4

## Indian violence

Election violence in India  
brought five more deaths as  
rival party supporters in  
Andhra Pradesh fought it out in  
the streets as well as at the  
bustings. Page 5

## Cheaper tours

Some package holiday com-  
panies are cutting prices be-  
cause bookings are down, but  
many holidaymakers face fuel  
and currency surcharges later  
because of the weak pound. Page 3

## Island in fear

Profound pessimism and an-  
xiety dominate Sri Lanka after  
the breakdown of efforts to find  
a political solution to the Tamil  
crisis. Trevor Fishlock analyses  
a nation at a dangerous  
crossroads. Page 6

## End of the road

The Monte Carlo Rally will not  
be staged next year because of  
unresolved differences among  
the sport's organizing bodies  
over money and the control of  
the event. Page 17

## England win

England won the second one-  
day international against India  
at Cuttack yesterday by a  
superior run rate. They now  
lead 2-0 in the five game series.  
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Leader page 11  
Letters: Our pit strike, from Mr  
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Royden Harrison; Gillick case,  
from Mr L Gostin, and others  
Leading articles: Defence and  
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on the continuing failure to  
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## Three plots to deal with priest, Polish court told

From Roger Boyes, Torun, Poland

Four Polish secret police officers hatched three plans to deal with the pro-Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the court was told when their trial opened here yesterday amid unprecedented security precautions.

The four men - all of them reduced to private after their arrest - are Colonel Adam Pietruszka, alleged instigator of the plot, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, Lieutenant Leszek Pekala and Lieutenant Walde-  
mar Chmielewski, accused of direct involvement in Father Popieluszko's death. They all face the death penalty for kidnapping and murder.

As the prosecutor, Mr Leszek Pietrasinski, read the indictment, a story unfolded of bumbling inefficiency and mis-  
haps in which the plot to teach Father Popieluszko a "political lesson" ended in a brutal killing.

"They thought that Popieluszko was a dangerous man who had not abandoned his activities despite warnings and the granting of an amnesty. They thought they would be promoted instead of being blamed for their act," the prosecutor said.

The story of the three scenarios was told by the first defendant to give evidence, Lieutenant Pekala, who also tried to shift the blame on to Piotrowski, the acknowledged ringleader.

He said that Piotrowski summoned him and Lieutenant Chmielewski, to his office in early October and asked them if they wanted to take part in a dangerous mission which could lead to the death of Popieluszko. The captain had told them there was no need to be afraid because he would be personally responsible to his superiors.

There were three plans, Pekala told the crowded court-  
room.

The first was to kidnap and hold the priest in a wartime bunker in the forest between Warsaw and Gdansk, to fright-

ten him and make him reveal names of those in the Solidarity underground.

Plan two was to take him to the bridge over the Vistula near Modlyn - a two-hour drive from Torun - and to suspend the priest over the river, again to intimidate him.

The third plan was even more ruthless. The priest's car would be intercepted with a hail of stones, forced to crash and then burnt complete with occupants. The policemen had managed to obtain 20 litres of rationed petrol for the purpose. The three men tried to carry out the plan on October 13 - the subject of a separate attempted murder charge - but were foiled by the swift reactions of the priest's driver.

Pekala, a 32-year-old electronic engineering graduate, sat impassively for much of the hearing, wrapped in a sheepskin coat. He spoke for four hours in a low, barely audible voice, effectively pleading guilty but saying he did not intend to murder Father Popieluszko. His testimony was often confused and though he tried to disavow a concrete plan to kill the priest, he admitted that two bags of stones - to weigh down the body - were taken in the get-away vehicle.

The authorities were taking no chances. A police helicopter circled overhead, water cannons stood ready and militia blocked all roads to the courthouse.

Guarded by anti-terrorist commandos, the four defendants were taken to the court-room by an underground tunnel from the heavily fortified investigation prison. They were led into court in manacles but were unlocked when they reached the dock where they were sandwiched between uniformed police officers. At one side of the dock sat black-beretted commandos. Father Popieluszko's family was represented by three lawyers who have often defended Solidarity activists in the past. His brother, a badge carrying the

image of the priest attached to his lapel, sat next to the former Solidarity leader, Mr Seweryn Jaworski and the priest's driver, both of whom are witnesses in the case.

Lieutenant Chmielewski, who will give evidence today when the court reconvenes, was particularly nervous. The 29-year-old bachelor constantly twitched on the right side of his face and had to smooth down the skin to keep his expression under control. By contrast Colonel Adam Pietruszka and Captain Piotrowski seemed models of calm. Piotrowski in particular had no inhibitions about contradicting the judge when details of his life were read out.

Piotrowski seems to be the key to the case. He had given little away in the early interrogations but many, including government ministers, appear to believe that if a link is to be established with shadowy hard-liners in the party establish-  
ment then it will be only if Piotrowski names names.

The security precautions are thus as much to protect the life of the accused killers as to prevent the remote prospect of Solidarity demonstrations.

Solidarity sympathizers, some of whom promenaded around the courthouse wearing religious badges, are alert to the possibility of a cover-up. One union leader, Mr Jan Rulewski, speaking in a church near the courthouse, said the case had far wider implications than just four over-zealous officers - it reflected on the whole operation of the Interior Ministry.

However, the Polish authorities have not been shy about publicizing the trial - television shots were shown on the early evening news bulletin - and have allowed a small number of Western news agency reporters and one newspaper correspondent into the courtroom. Polish journalists also attended the opening of the trial, although it remains to be seen what, if anything, will appear in print.



Four accused (all hatless): Front row, Piotrowski and Pekala. At rear, Chmielewski and Pietruszka.

## Job prospects 'best for five years'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Job prospects for the early months of next year are the best for five years. Manpower, the temporary employment agency, says in a survey today.

Of 983 employers questioned, 24 per cent expected to increase their workforce in the first three months of the year. This compared with 13 per cent who expected to cut staff.

A year ago 18 per cent of employers expected to increase staffing, and 17 per cent to reduce them. In the three end-of-year surveys before that, a heavy net reduction in employ-  
ment was foreseen.

Manufacturing industry was noticeably more optimistic about employment, with 27 per cent of companies expecting to hire more workers and only 12 per cent to slim.

Car makers, manufacturers and electrical and computer companies were expecting to recruit most in the coming months.

In the services sector, 23 per cent of companies were hoping

to add to staff and 12 per cent to cut back. Retailing remained an area of healthy job growth, while only a modest net rise was anticipated in banking.

The public sector continues to cut back on jobs, with 20 per cent of utilities and authorities expecting to reduce manpower in the first quarter of next year, compared with only 11 per cent hoping to recruit.

Regionally, job prospects are strongest in East Anglia, the West, and London and the Home Counties. The job market is weakest in Scotland, the Midlands, the North East, South Wales and, surprisingly, the South coast.

The Manpower jobs survey, now in its 18th year, covered employers with a total of more than 3 million workers. Of companies which took part, 82 per cent said that their previous survey forecasts of employment changes had been correct.

Austin Rover recruitment, Back Page

## Man-made comet launched

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

Scientists yesterday produced the first artificial comet in space when they released two canisters of hydrogen from a West German satellite over the Western hemisphere.

A National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientist Mr Gil Owsley, project manager of the joint \$70 million (\$88 million) US-British-West German experiment, said the satellite formed a comet with a tail 7,500 miles long, about 50 times its diameter.

All operations went as planned and aircraft took good pictures of the comet by flying above the clouds that covered ground observation points.

The experiment was part of the Aeronomics Magnetospheric Particle Tracer Explorer project to measure the earth's magnetic field.

Each of the three nations in the project launched a satellite on August 16 from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Continued on back page, col 6



Royal event: Prince Henry and his mother, the Princess of Wales, photographed by Lord Snowdon at the baby's christening in Windsor. (More photographs, page 3).

## No strings to Gadaffi pledge on hostages

By Rupert Morris

No strings are attached to Colonel Gadaffi's promise about trying to secure the release of the four Britons held hostage in Libya. Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, assured reporters at Gatwick Airport last night.

But Mr Waite added: "Only when our people are on the plane and their feet are on this soil can we say that the matter is over. It is not over yet."

He said the Libyan leader had expressed his "very great regret" about the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher in the siege of the Libyan People's Bureau. He described it as "the action of a madman", but Mr Waite said he did not press him for the name of the senior bureau official responsible, and did not know whether the man would stand trial.

Colonel Gadaffi had said he would recommend to the Libyan People's Congress that the four Britons should be released and the file closed. Two minutes before he left Tripoli, Mr Waite had been presented by Libyan officials with a return airline ticket in order that he could attend the Congress on January 5.

Mr Waite said the four hostages were in reasonable condition, but admitted to considerable concern over Mr Michael Berdinner, an English lecturer at Tripoli University.

"Mr Berdinner is an academic and a man of some sensitivity," he said. "Being deprived of his normal way of life has given him a great deal of anxiety. He is in a very depressed state."

"Before I left I was very sharp indeed with the Libyan authorities. I told them they must take very special care of Mr Berdinner. I think Michael has had enough and doesn't deserve any more."

He said Mr Malcolm Anderson, an oil engineer, was "remarkably bouncy" and Mr Robin Plummer, a telephone engineer, was bearing up well.

Mr Plummer initially had not been keen for their Christmas Day service to be televised but had changed his mind and taken a very positive attitude.

The fourth hostage, Mr Alan Russell, an English teacher, was "holding himself together very well."

Mr Waite felt that his own non-political status had helped to win over the Libyan leader.

He said he was also able to disabuse Colonel Gadaffi about allegations of torture in British prisons.

## Snow, fog and black ice make roads hazardous

Snow, fog and black ice combined yesterday to produce roads like skating rinks. Scotland and the north were blanketed in fog, there was snow in Wales and the West Country and icy conditions in Hertfordshire and Essex.

Main roads were gripped throughout Britain, and speed restrictions were imposed on the M62 and A1 (M) near Durham on the M1 in Hertfordshire, on the M4 in Berkshire and on several stretches of the M6 north of Birmingham. In Wales a 10-mile stretch of the A4069 between Llanpadog and Brynmam was blocked by snow drifts.

A fourth member of a family died yesterday from injuries received in a crash on the A1 caused by black ice at Elkesley, near Retford, Nottinghamshire.

She was Mrs Wendy Platt, aged 38, of Newark. Her husband, Henry, aged 54, and sons Ian, aged 15, and Hugh, aged 13, died on Boxing Day.

## Kinnock may face challenge from left

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Growing dissatisfaction on the Labour left over Mr Neil Kinnock's attitude to the coal strike has strengthened the belief of well-placed sources that he will be challenged for the party leadership next year.

An article in *The Times* yesterday by Mr James Curran, the former editor of *New Socialist* and a prominent figure on the left, in which he stated that Mr Tony Benn was considering contesting the leadership, has hardened speculation which began last month when members of the Campaign group of left-wing MPs voiced discontent over Mr Kinnock's stance on the miners' dispute.

His refusal to attend the rallies organized by the National Union of Mineworkers, his action in speaking of the possibility of the miners being defeated, and his delay in going on to a miners' picket line has angered constituency and trade union activists.

Sources close to Mr Benn suggested yesterday that, although he would come under pressure to run against Mr Kinnock, it was unlikely that he would do so.

The same sources, however, said that there could be a challenge of some kind to Mr Kinnock from the left. Mr Dennis Skinner, the left-wing MP for Bolsover and a member of the party's national executive, is frequently mentioned as a possible candidate. He has made no secret of his opposition to Mr Kinnock's handling of the dispute.

It is accepted by all sections of the party that Mr Kinnock would easily beat any challenge.

It is pointed out by supporters of Mr Kinnock that the "fundamentalists" on the left, which they say people such as Mr Curran and Mr Skinner represent, is losing influence and has been deserted in several recent key party votes by former supporters, including Mr Michael Meacher and Mr David Blunkett.

It is not denied, however, that a contest would lead the party with several more months of internal argument that it could do without. That may not deter the left.

One leading figure said yesterday that Mr Kinnock had not measured up to the job. "There is a fair chance that he will be challenged; he ought to be," he said.

There are no signs that Mr Kinnock will alter his position on the miners' dispute to suit the left. It is not expected by any means to dominate the new year message to the party at the weekend.

Balance of power, page 2  
Philip Howard, page 10

## SALE NOW ON

**CAMERA** - Fine Bedstead in Honey or Walnut Finish eg. 5'0" was £470 now £376

**CUDLER Sofa Bed** - Comfortable and Practical. Converts to Double Bed. Beige Cotton Twill Fabric. was £225 now £299

**PETER REED** - Pure Egyptian Cotton Sheets & Duvet Covers. **CHRISTIAN DIOB** - Duvet Covers, Sheets, Pillowcases, Towels & Designer Bathrobes. **PURE SILK** - Quilts, Comforters, Cushions - HALF PRICE QUILTS

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**SPECIAL SALE OFFER** - REICHOX 'CAPT' Mattress and Spring Edge Divan Set 8'0" x 7'0" was £2,700 now £999

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# Coal board ready to let strike last until March before making any move

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Senior coal board officials are prepared to let the miners' strike last another two months before making a big reassessment of strategy. The crucial date as seen as March 6, the anniversary of the start of the dispute.

Coal board sources argue that if more than half of the miners are still on strike by the end of February the onus will be on the board and the Government to make a move.

If, however, more than half the pitmen are back at work by then, the pressure will be on the National Union of Mineworkers and the TUC to offer an olive branch. Mangers argue that if most NUM members are at work the union will have "voted with its feet". When the collieries closed before Christmas the board estimated that more than 69,000 of the NUM's

189,000 members were not on strike.

Officials believe that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, would agree with their analysis, and so would area directors, but that Mr Ian MacGregor would be prepared to "stick it out" come what may.

The board is expecting more strikers back at work as collieries begin to open again between January 2 and 7. Area directors have begun to send letters to the homes of those still out and an advertising campaign in the popular press will begin on Monday.

The management expects that many "new faces" will return to work when pits open - partly to take advantage of tax-free earnings before the end of the fiscal year - officials do not expect to see a flood back to

work like that experienced in November after negotiations broke down.

Traditionalists at the board still believe that the "drift back to work" will not provide a solution and one senior source said it would mean that some pitmen would simply never return to work again. They argue that a negotiated settlement is the only way out. It is now a question of who will start the ball rolling.

The National Working Miners' Committee is determined to encourage the return to work in the new year by sending out speakers to Northumberland, Yorkshire and South Wales to put its point of view.

A spokesman said yesterday: "They have no choice but to go back to work. The stark alternative given by Mr Arthur Scargill is a strike until next Christmas."

Meanwhile, the issue of the four-day week, which has lain dormant for a year, could become an ingredient in any settlement. The board is understood to be thinking of including the issue in any further talks, although it could prove to be a source of argument.

Fearing that new technology could cost at least 100,000 jobs in the industry by the year 2000, the NUM a year ago put forward its proposals, which included a four-day, 28-hour week with loss of pay.

The board wanted men to work longer shifts underground and offered to conduct an experiment, but the NUM rejected the offer. A joint working party on the matter has not met since June 1982.

Mr Bill Sims, retiring general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation called on miners' leaders yesterday to stop picket line violence.

Letters, page 11

## Striking miners praised for work on hospital

By Paul Valley

Eight striking miners were applauded yesterday for 10 months unstinting labour on building a Leukaemia unit for the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh.

The unit, which is an extension to the haematology department of the hospital, is being built with the aid of a Scottish charity, the Leukaemia Unit Fund (Scotland). Lack of cash had threatened the realization of the project until eight striking miners offered their labour free of charge for the duration of the strike. It seems likely that the unit will open next March, earlier than planned.

Earlier this month Lady Dalkith attended a dinner for the eight strikers to thank them

for their assistance. She is patron of the Leukaemia Unit Fund.

Their work has been tremendous", Mr Brebner Miller, chief medical laboratory scientific officer in the haematology department, said. The miners have dug foundations, laid drains and done all manner of manual labour.

Their work has saved £20,000 on the extension and renovation work for the new unit. Mr Bill Jones, a volunteer for the Leukaemia Unit Fund, said yesterday: "They have worked five, or sometimes six, days a week since the strike began. When four of the men, who worked at Bilsdon Glen, decided to go back to work four more strikers replaced them."

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## SDP expects balance of power

By Philip Webster

Dr David Owen today predicts that the Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance will at least win the balance of power at the next election and says that to do so, whether by taking 60 or 200 seats, will be a victory and not a defeat.

In a new year message to his party again emphasizing the need for it to be ready to take part in a coalition government, Dr Owen says that Britain needs a government that speaks for the majority of the country, which means more than 50 per cent of the electorate.

"We advocate sharing power to ensure a government that works for all the people. We welcome the fact that government of more than one party will be more likely once a fairer voting system is achieved and

indeed we are unafraid of sharing power with other parties even before the voting system is changed."

Dr Owen's readiness to participate in coalitions has been at the heart of his argument that the SDP must retain its separate identity within the Alliance.

In a recent, little-noted speech he laid down the guidelines which the Alliance should operate if it did indeed win the balance of power at the next election.

It should be made known before an election, he said, that no Queen's Speech setting out the legislative programme would be accepted by the Commons unless it had been negotiated line by line with the party leaders who could claim to speak for the majority of voters.

The speech and any accompanying agreement would have to be endorsed by the parliamentary parties involved. There should be an agreement that Parliament would not be dissolved for at least three years, except in an emergency.

He said: "While this could not be binding on the royal prerogative it would ensure a moral duty on the Prime Minister of a government that has the Queen's Speech accepted to ensure a period of stable government and not seek a tactical dissolution."

His final condition was that if one or more parties to a coalition agreement felt there should be a change in the voting system, but that this could not form part of the agreement, there would be a strong case for putting the issue to a referendum.

## TUC seeks control on Special Branch

By Our Labour Reporter

The 1,400-member Special Branch is accused by the TUC of increasing involvement in industrial and political matters in evidence supplied to the Commons home affairs committee.

The TUC urges the committee, which is conducting the first detailed parliamentary inquiry into the unit, to back legislation to control its activities.

Britain should follow the example of other signatories to the European Conventions on Human Rights and Data Protection and establish a "clear statutory remit" for such police activity.

Union leaders want to see "a reasonable balance" between the unit's operational needs and traditional liberties.

In evidence supplied to the inquiry, union leaders accuse the Special Branch of illicitly tapping the telephones of activists during industrial disputes.

The TUC has received complaints from its affiliates alleging "improper treatment" of members.

The TUC understands that 1,300,000 out of 1,500,000 files on individuals have been added in recent years, without the individuals' knowledge and without a right to check the accuracy of the information.

The Special Branch is criticized for allegedly photographing union demonstrations and for detaining and questioning Irish nationalists attending courses in Britain.

The evidence claims that Special Branch officers visited schools in Eastbourne and Bexhill inquiring about the political allegiances of teachers. It also reports alleged Special Branch threats in July 1977 against the children of the editor of the *Yorkshire Miner*.

In 1979 the unit was suspected by the National and Local Government Officers' Association of surveillance of a campaign against public sector cuts. In 1980 police officers investigated Mr James Hogg, a Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward, for "enthusiastic" union activities, the evidence alleges.

Apart from legislation the TUC is seeking six safeguards: the publication of accounts of its activities; inclusion of the Special Branch in provisions for police-community consultation; stricter safeguards on telephone tapping; checks to ensure files are accurate; an effective complaints machinery; and parliamentary scrutiny by a permanent select committee on the security services.

## Labour in spinster's death quiz

By Our Political Reporter

The Labour Party asked the Home Secretary yesterday to state whether the Special Branch was involved in the investigations after the murder of a woman aged 78 alleged by Mr Delyell to have died after violent encounter with British Intelligence officers.

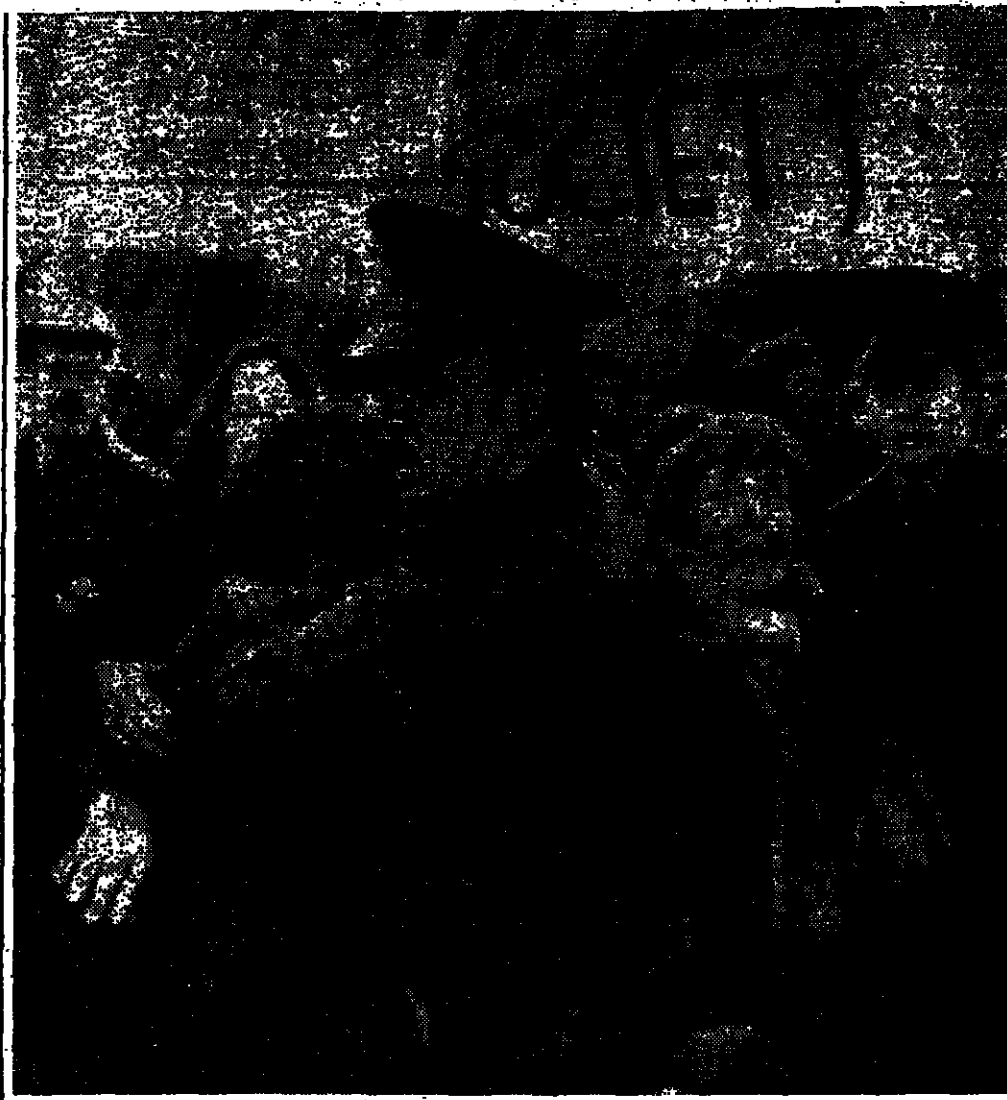
There have been conflicting reports about Special Branch involvement in the case since Mr Delyell, Labour MP for Louth, said in the Commons on Thursday last week that Miss Hilda Murrell had died after disturbing burglars who may have been looking for documents relating to the Falklands war.

The investigating police officers said initially that the branch had not taken part in the early stages of the inquiry, but other reports at the weekend said that it had.

Mr Clive Soley, Labour's front bench home affairs spokesman, wrote to Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, yesterday asking him to clear up the doubt.

Mr Delyell said in the Commons that the officers were searching for sensitive documents relating to the sinking of the General Belgrano because Miss Murrell's nephew, Commander Robert Green, was a senior naval intelligence officer at the time of the Falklands conflict.

Mr Soley said last night: "It is quite clear that something very odd happened in that case."



## Attack on grave denounced

By Joe Ravitch

The "Hunt Retribution Squad", which desecrated the Duke of Bedford's grave on Christmas Eve, was "simply a bunch of terrorists and should be exposed and stopped", a spokesman for the League Against Cruel Sports claimed yesterday.

Mr Jim Barrington said that the squad's actions damaged the efforts of the campaign to ban hunting.

"You can't ask for a change in the law, while breaking the law", Mr Barrington said.

According to the league, which has been trying to ban field sports since 1924 and has 18,000 members, the squad is part of a "strange, anarchist element in the anti-hunt movement, which is totally unrepresentative of the movement as a whole."

The league has enlisted the backing of the Labour and Liberal parties in its efforts to ban hunting, and says that the desecration of the duke's grave will discredit its efforts.

"What they did to the duke's grave was inhuman. He was a



Ulster police holding back protesters against field sports who saw bounds in pursuit of a hare at the annual Crebilly coursing event near Ballymena, Co Antrim, yesterday.

so much cruel, as simply outdated. The real cruelty is carried out by the young hunters who know what they are doing when they inflict pain on animals", Mr Barrington said.

The squad first appeared in October, when it published a "hit list" of public figures who support hunting, such as members of the Royal Family.

Chief Insp Arthur Ford of Avon Police has carried the investigation into the identities of the group to London.

But so far the police have had no leads, and the league says that even if some of its members were in the squad, no one would know because of the tight secrecy surrounding it.

Leading article, page 11

## Six detained under terror Act

By Stewart Tandler

Special Branch officers in Liverpool were yesterday questioning six men held since Christmas Eve in an operation against a suspected Irish terrorist group.

In the city's dockland area the police are understood to have found what they believe are explosives and forensic scientists are examining the material.

The six men are being held in a Liverpool police station under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, agreed on Boxing Day to extend their detention for a further five days after their initial two-day detention under the act.

The Armed Forces, Whitehall and the police are in a state of readiness for terrorist attacks. An "amber" alert remains in operation in Whitehall.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad has been told of the arrests in Liverpool but they are not thought to be connected with public attacks in London. In the past the Provisional IRA has carried out bombings in a number of other cities and on military targets.

Liverpool's ferry connections across the Irish Sea have often been used by the Provisionals to bring bomb units to Britain.

Although in past years there have been IRA attacks during the Christmas period, there have been bombings in the new year as well.

## Church site sold to developers for £1.5m

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church Commissioners have resisted a vociferous campaign by community groups in the Paddington area of west London and have decided to sell a redundant church site there to property developers.

In a decision likely to set a precedent for other such sales, however, they have allocated £200,000 of their profit for local community purposes.

The issue before the commissioners was whether to accept a bid of more than £900,000 from Paddington Church Housing Association in conjunction with the Paddington Community Consortium, or commercial bids of about £1.5 million for speculative redevelopment.

The site is that of Holy Trinity Church, last used for services in 1971.

Local groups argued that too

many church sites had been sold in Paddington for high-cost, high-quality housing when local low-income families were in acute need.

The campaign culminated in a demonstration on Christmas eve, and the commissioners were wished a "guilt-ridden and unhappy Christmas" by the Christian Organisations for Social Political and Economic Change group, which heard of the decision last week.

Protest groups gathered outside the Church Commissioners' premises on Monday to draw attention to the 800 families said to be homeless and living in hostels and hotels near the site of Holy Trinity Church.

The church housing association alleged that the commissioners had made a profit of £60 million from Paddington in one year.

## Rebuke for paper over killer

By Ronald Faux

In reporting the trial of a man who tried to kill two patients at a Cambridge psychiatric hospital a newspaper was entitled to set it in context by recalling his trial in 1967 for killing his wife and three children, the Press Council said today.

However, it was unnecessary and improper of the *Eastern Daily Press* to identify in detail the bungalow where that tragedy took place and its present use and occupancy, the council added.

It upheld to that extent a complaint by Mrs K. P. Dixon, of Grange Farm, Eling Green, Doreham, Norfolk, that it was improper of the newspaper to identify the address and family of a man, her brother-in-law.

The newspaper reported that Mr Claude Dixon, aged 55, admitted at Norwich Crown Court attempting to murder two patients at Fulbourn Hospital, near Cambridge. He was sent back to Broadmoor, where he had been sent 17 years earlier, after being accused of murdering his wife and three children and being found unfit to plead.

A second article recalled the events of 1967, including the trial. It said that the bodies were found in Mr Dixon's bungalow and described its location and use.

A complaint by Mrs Dixon against the *Cambridge Evening News* over a background piece to the trial was rejected.

## Climber dies in Cairngorms

By Ronald Faux

A climber died and his companion was injured yesterday when they fell in the Cairngorm mountains in the Scottish Highlands.

The Cairngorm Mountain Rescue team recovered the body and took the injured climber to a point where he and the body could be taken by helicopter to the foot of the mountain. The two climbers were from England.

The accident happened on a climb called Spiral Gully in the Corrie an Sgeachda. It is understood that the leader fell and the body (the point holding a secured rope) holding his second failed.

Conditions were said to be good for winter climbing, although a shortage of deep hard snow in the gullies made for difficult roped climbing.

The colder the temperature and the harder the ice choking the gullies on the Highland mountains, the more conditions are judged to be excellent by the winter mountaineers.

There have already been appeals for climbers to avoid the basic errors that each year claim lives.

Mr Andy Nicol, chairman of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland, said yesterday that cold, dry weather could attract 50 or more climbers to the precipitous north face of Ben Nevis alone.

## Help for disabled puts up cost of building

By Charles Knevit

Architecture Correspondent

The cost of new buildings will increase by up to 5 per cent in the new year because of changes in the building regulations to help the disabled.

The new rules, which form part of the fourth amendment to the building regulations, 1976, give right of access to all floors of new shops and offices, and to the ground floor of most new buildings except houses.

Existing buildings are exempt for now. However, a new British Standard on means of escape for the disabled will be ready in 1986 which will cover alterations and additions to existing buildings.

Multi-storey shops and offices are likely to be the most affected by the provision for the disabled.

The *Architects' Journal* quotes the Department of Environment as saying that cost rises of between 1 and 5 per cent are expected. This is based on research carried out in the mid-1970s by the now defunct National Building Agency.

The new measures have been welcomed by the Access Committee for England. But the Confederation of British Industry said that the costs must be measured against the benefits.

## Repair hope for rail tunnel

By Charles Knevit

Fears that the Summit Tunnel on the Yorkshire-Lancashire border closed after an explosion and fire on board a tank train, would have to be permanently sealed, were removed yesterday.

A British Rail engineering team was able to enter the 2,885 yard tunnel, one of the longest in the country, for the first detailed examination since the accident on December 20. It found damage to be less severe than expected.

## IRA bride back in jail

By Charles Knevit

Anne-Marie Bateson, aged 28, a Provisional IRA murderer who married during Christmas parole, returned to Armagh jail on time yesterday to complete the 20-year sentence she was given in 1976 for the fire-bombing of a boutique in which a mother of three children died.

Now Mrs Gerard McElean, she was driven back to prison by her husband, a lorry driver.

## Teachers seek pension pledge

By Charles Knevit

Britain's second largest teachers' union has sought a fresh assurance from the Chancellor that the Government is not planning a tax squeeze on pension contributions and benefits.

The 126,000-strong National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers has told Mr Nigel Lawson that more than five million public sector employees would be affected by any change.

## Protester hurt in prison fire

By Charles Knevit

Four prisoners and two prison officers were taken to hospital suffering from the effects of smoke after a fire at Guernsey prison, believed to have started in a cell.

Among the prisoners taken to hospital was Mr Maurice Kirk, a veterinary surgeon, aged 39, serving an eight month sentence for contempt, who has recently ended a hunger strike in protest at his sentence.

## Thatcher visits Mrs Tebbit

By Charles Knevit

Mrs Margaret Thatcher spent 90 minutes yesterday visiting Mrs Margaret Tebbit, wife of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Mrs Tebbit, a victim of the Brighton Bombing in October, is still paralysed. Mr Norman Tebbit, who left hospital earlier this month, was also present yesterday.

## Rapist sought

By Charles Knevit

Police were yesterday hunting a rapist who savagely attacked a girl aged 19 in Bridgwater, Somerset.

The attacker was described as 5ft 7in tall, aged about 20 and wearing a distinctive high-length modern "box" jacket.

## Girl lost in sea

By Charles Knevit

A girl aged seven was swept out to sea by a freak wave at St Oswald's Bay, West Lulworth, Dorset. Kirsty Collis, from Dorset, was walking over rocks with her mother and brother.

## 'Mousetrap' sale

By Charles Knevit

The 38 Colt revolver used in the first production of Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* in London 31 years ago will be offered for sale at Sotheby's on January 23. Real firearms are no longer allowed on stage.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20, Belgium \$10, Canada \$10, France \$10, Germany \$10, Hong Kong \$10, India \$10, Italy \$10, Japan \$10, New Zealand \$10, Norway \$10, Portugal \$10, South Africa \$10, Spain \$10, Sweden \$10, Switzerland \$10, Taiwan \$10, Thailand \$10, USA \$10, West Germany \$10.

## Rival for Marble Arch gates

By Charles Knevit

A £35,000 commission for 10, 24ft-high forged steel gates has just been completed at a new office development at Victoria Station, London.

The design won a national competition for architectural ironwork, and the job of making them, for Mr Giuseppe Lund, aged 33, a metalworker who lives near Shrewsbury.

Mr Lund believes that only the gates to Marble Arch and the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, are of comparable scale in the capital.

They have been finished in protective zinc coating, stained and then lacquered to give the appearance of polished rather than of painted steel.

Mr Lund is trying to encourage the use of metalwork and says that it is not only suitable for Victorian designs. Three years ago he organized the "Towards a New Iron Age" exhibition of decorative metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The purpose of this design is to blend the classical facade of the old building with the modern one.

The competition was organized by Greycoat Estates, Norwich Union and their architect for the new development, Elsom, Pack and Roberts Partnership. (Photograph: Dod Miller).



The changing pound

## Unpopular coin receives a seasonal boost

By Robin Young

At present the British public is willing to take any money it can lay its hands on, so the numbers of both new £1 coins and doornuts, tatty old £1 notes in circulation are at record levels for the year.

The Christmas and new year season is traditionally the peak of demand for all currency so there have been fewer customers complaining at post office counters that they do not want £1 coins.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, claimed last month that only one customer in 40 was refusing coins: this week counter attendants in London were not able to remember any such cases.

The decision to withdraw the £1 note was announced on November 12, but printing continued for another two weeks after that and issuing continues apace even now, until the deadline on December 31.

The Bank of England is unwilling to divulge its weekly rate of issue, but says that it is impossible to tell from comparison with last year's figures whether there has been any diminished demand for the note because of its imminent withdrawal.

Not will it claim to discern any increased demand for the fast departing paper, noting simply that December is always a popular time for money in any form.

The Royal Mint, however, has had to be content with scant acceleration in the acceptance of its bright and shiny coins. Since the November 12 announcement about another 10 million have filtered into circulation, but there are still only 180 million at large of the 250 million struck before the coin's launch in April 1983.

The latest figure from the mint for production to date is 570 million, just enough coins to replace the number of notes said to be around when the withdrawal was announced.

A spokesman for the mint said: "This was really what we had come to expect. While there was something familiar about as an alternative to

something new, and while conversion programmes for machinery to accept the coins were incomplete, we realized there would not be the demand for the coin that there was for the note."

The Chancellor's announcement that the note would go was the culmination of a sustained and determined campaign from within the Treasury to rid of a note which since 1976 had had lower real value than that of the 10-shilling note in 1970.

The clinching argument in hastening the decision over the Prime Minister's publicly stated objection appears to have been that public acceptance of the £1 coin would

continue to be artificially delayed so long as the more familiar note continued.

Cost-conscious officials was understandably irked by the public preference for something which cost 1½ p to produce and became unacceptably tatty within 10 months over an alternative costing one penny more but with a supposed pocket life of 40 years.

While pound notes grew grimmer in constant use, pound coins developed a habit of returning rapidly from shop tills to the banks which issued them. One would have guessed, from observation at the tills, that the coin was called a "sorry, mate, I'll have to give you one of these."



## Nurse tells how friend was shot after defying bandits

Ms Sarah Belshaw, aged 22, of Norwich, yesterday described the attack in which her friend, Ms Christine Mullins, aged 24, was critically injured after being shot by Peruvian bandits.

Back home and safe with her family Ms Belshaw said in an interview with Radio Norfolk that the two friends had been visiting pre-Inca ruins on the northern shore of Peru when they were set upon by bandits.

"We had stopped to admire some ceramics that a little boy was selling by the roadside. First of all they attacked the little boy and we assumed they wanted his ceramics. But he wriggled free and they turned on us."

"They grabbed us and asked us for money. We stood up to them and said 'no' and without giving us any time to negotiate and without using any kind of physical violence they shot one shot and ran off."

"Chris was hit. Initially I thought she was just injured in the right shoulder because she was bleeding from there."

"She herself said 'I am dying. Tell my father I love him.'"

Ms Christine Mullins: Went into coma

kept on saying 'you are not dying. You have only been hit in the shoulder'."

"But at that stage she started having respiratory difficulties and became blue and it was then I noticed that she had swelling in the left side of her neck and it was obviously there that the bullet had lodged. It had gone into her right side, clipped her neck and then lodged in the left side of her neck."

"I started to give her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and looked round for help. But it was so isolated there was a great stretch of desert between the two pyramids."

"I ran off and started shouting and waving for help, but then we went back to her. I thought if she was going to die then she would not be alone in the last moments."

"Eventually some villagers came past, though much to my dismay he had a horse and cart. We loaded Christine on to the back of the cart and I carried on mouth-to-mouth resuscitation."

"We got her across the desert and on to a mini-bus which took us to the nearest hospital. Then we took Christine to Lima and from there she was flown to Miami."

"In Miami she went into a deep coma, but I know there she is getting the best of care."

Last night Ms Mullins sank into a deep coma, the Miami hospital reported.

Her condition was described as "very very grave" by a neurosurgeon, Mr Philip Villanueva, of the Jackson Memorial Hospital. He said if Ms Mullins did survive she would never walk again.

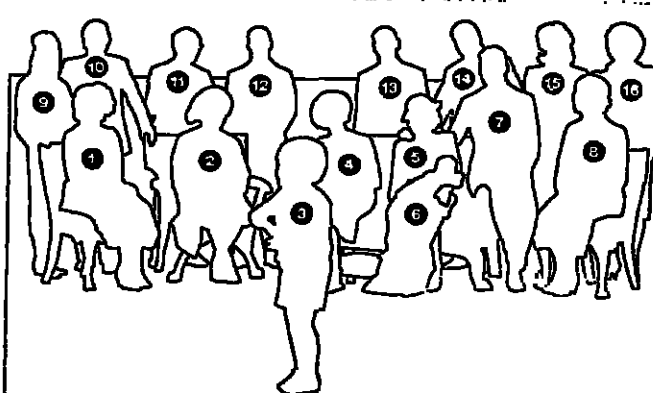
Ms Mullins' parents, John and Mary Mullins, from Essex, flew to Lima from London and followed their daughter to Miami.



## Prince of play goes on camera

The antics of Prince William, which so entertained the Queen's Christmas broadcast, are in evidence again today with the official photographs to commemorate the christening of Prince Henry.

The Prince can be seen centre stage, clearly stealing the limelight from the Queen, other members of the Royal Family and godparents, laughing in the background, while Prince Henry remains puzzled. The result, in a series by Lord Snowdon, is one of the most naturally light-hearted royal photographs in many years.



Photographed are: Lady Fermoy (grandmother of the Princess of Wales) Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Prince William the Queen the Princess of Wales Prince Henry the Prince of Wales Mrs Shand-Kydd (mother of the Princess of Wales) Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones (a godmother) Bryan Organ (a godfather) Gerald Ward (a godfather) Prince Andrew (a godfather) the Duke of Edinburgh Lord Spencer (father of the Princess of Wales) Lady Vestey (a godmother) Mrs William Bartholomew (a godmother).

## Brain-death mother's baby dies at 10 days

A girl born to a woman who was being kept alive on a life-support machine died yesterday aged 10 days. Shortly after the birth the mother, Mrs Mary Scanlon, aged 26, died when the machine was switched off with the consent of her husband, David, aged 28.

The birth and Mrs Scanlon's death took place at Cork Regional Hospital in the Irish Republic. The baby, who had been delivered safely and had appeared to be thriving, died in St Finbar's Hospital, Cork.

Mrs Scanlon was admitted to hospital after suffering a brain haemorrhage. She was declared to be brain-dead soon afterwards, but she was kept alive for a further month in an attempt to save the child.

The baby was born two months prematurely. "Our main objective was to enable the baby to survive to the twenty-eighth week of the pregnancy, knowing that after that its survival prospects would increase considerably."

Mr Scanlon, of Cooleygarman, Broadford, Co Limerick, is believed to have insisted that all necessary measures should be taken to save the baby. He and his wife had three other children.

Last night, Mr Scanlon said that he felt unable to speak about the deaths of his wife and daughter. A nurse at St Finbar's, however, said of the baby: "We did everything for her. It came as a great shock when she died."

The life-support machine would have kept the mother's blood well oxygenated and her kidneys functioning (our Medical Correspondent writes). In that state the baby's blood would obtain all the oxygen and nutrients needed and growth would be unimpeded.

## Holiday prices reduced

By Robin Young

Some holiday operators are reducing their prices because bookings are about a third down on last year, but many holidaymakers will face heavy fuel and currency surcharges later in the year because of the continuing decline of the pound.

Lunn Poly, Britain's second biggest travel agency, announced yesterday that it would cut the price of holidays by up to £15 for customers who also purchased the company's insurance. The company is offering £15 per person off long-distance trips, £10 off holidays of up to two weeks, a £5 reduction on a week's holiday.

Lunn Poly is also offering up to £1,500 credit for people to pay for holidays and is providing an instant money-back guarantee against any operator going bankrupt.

Blue Sky Holidays, a subsidiary of British Caledonian, has

relaunched its summer 1985 brochure with prices trimmed by as much as £25 a person. It has also included a no-surcharge guarantee for those who book before February 28, but says that for later bookings surcharges of up to 10 per cent are probable.

Most travel operators have given a warning that they are likely to impose some surcharges for holidays in 1985. Many have limited their increases to 10 per cent of the brochure price, or £14 per person per week, but some have set no limit and could face cancellations.

The increased cost of air holidays is expected to lead to an increase in motor holiday both in Britain and on the Continent, with many companies in the motor holiday business hoping to see business increase from last year by as much as 40 per cent.

Mr Jim Cuthbert, of Canvas,

Cabin and Car Holidays, says that bookings for next summer are already double those of the corresponding period last year. Ladbrooke is predicting 20 per cent more demand for its car tour programmes and Guy Salmon, the rental company, expects a substantial increase in the number of visitors hiring cars in Britain.

Price increases of up to 25 per cent over last year are putting customers off countries such as Spain, but more distant destinations are hopeful of increasing their business share. Mr Michael Blackall, manager of the Everest Sheraton Hotel in Katmandu, Nepal, is excited that the re-establishment of the road link between Nepal and Tibet could create opportunities for excursions to Lhasa. Many of the 2,000 British visitors who stay at the hotel every year travel with Saga Holidays, the specialists in senior citizen's travel.

## Hitchhike link in murders

Detectives hunting the killer of the daughter of a leading psychiatrist are investigating the possibility of a link with the murder of a young Finnish woman tourist.

The strangled body of Miss Deirdre Sainsbury, aged 29, naked except for a pair of grey socks, was found on a golf course at Denham, Buckinghamshire. She was the daughter of Dr Peter Sainsbury, a former vice-president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Detectives think that Miss Sainsbury, last seen alive when she left the home of friends in Dulwich, south-east London, at lunchtime on Saturday, may have been hitchhiking on the M40 to Oxford.

The body of a Finnish student nurse, Ella Karjalainen, aged 25, was found in woods on the Duke of Marlborough's Blenheim Palace estate at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, last year. She had been strangled and detectives believe that she also met her killer while hitchhiking from London.

Det Supt Roger Nicklin described Miss Sainsbury, who was involved in the anti-nuclear movement and was a frequent visitor to the Greenham Common peace camp, as "a bit of a wanderer who was known to visit friends all over the country."

She had had mental problems and had been receiving psychiatric treatment from time to time, Mr Nicklin said.

## Sales get off to a record start

By Derek Haines, Commercial Editor

The "January" sales had a record start yesterday after a pre-Christmas rush which most retailers say was well up on 1983.

Even in the West Country, affected by wintry weather, Mr John Reynolds, store director at the Exeter branch of Debenhams, reported crowds shrugging off fog and icy conditions and taking the store's trading at least to last year's comparable levels.

Bargain hunters thronged central London and provincial cities. At Barlows department store in Kensington, west London, Mr Richard Lusty, general manager, said: "There were more than 800 people waiting for us to open."

At Debenhams in Oxford Street, Mr David Elliott, store director, said: "It is infinitely better than last year, possibly 30 per cent or more up. Fashion clothing is the big draw; some prices are down by a half."

Maples Waring & Gillow, the furniture and furnishings chain with more than 70 branches, said sales looked like rising above last year's levels.

It was a frosty morning in Manchester but at the Lewis's department store in Market Street, which claims to be the biggest provincial store in Europe, more than 500 shoppers were queuing from 7am.

An unusually high build-up of stocks meant bargains in large-screen colour television

sets and in video recorders, according to Mr David Anderson, chief executive of Rumbolows, the electrical goods chain.

Bigger kitchen appliances such as washing machines and fridge-freezers are a tenth cheaper. Even prices of some microwave cookers, a popular Christmas buy, are being shaved.

By early evening, Dickins & Jones in London's Regent Street was reporting sales of furs up 60 per cent compared with last year's first day of sales. Many women's fashion lines were up by a half. Overall turnover was up 35 per cent. Record sales were also reported from branches in Richmond and Milton Keynes.

One of the biggest do-it-yourself chains, Texas Homecare, which has 128 shops, reported Boxing Day sales on its first day of special winter offers to be up by more than a half on the same day last year. Mr Ron Trenter, managing director, said: "We were pleasantly surprised."

Victoria Wine, with more than 800 off-licences, estimated sales to Christmas Eve were up 12.4 per cent at outlets where comparisons could be made. The biggest surge was in table wines.

Mr Tony Sprackling, aged 24, a taxi driver, yesterday claimed a world record after queuing for 17 days outside Koolhaas department store in Colchester.

Today's sales, back page

## Baronet fights home fire

Sir Michael Leighton, the eleventh baronet, yesterday braved flames and smoke to help save his ancestral home.

The fire broke out at 2am at Loton Park, the Jacobean-style mansion near Shrewsbury, where the Leighton family has lived for centuries.

It is thought to have started in a chimney breast and spread behind wall panelling to damage two rooms in the hall. Furniture, books and family portraits in the two rooms were damaged or destroyed. Structural damage was comparatively slight.

The alarm was raised when smoke was seen seeping through a ceiling. Six people in the hall, including Sir Michael, aged 49, were moved out but when all safe Sir Michael, armed with a fire extinguisher, went back inside to fight the blaze.

Also helping to fight the fire

were the tenants of Sir Michael's converted stable block, a film stunt man, Mr Gerard Naprous, and his assistant, Miss Sally Outram.

Miss Outram said: "It took a lot of courage to do what Sir Michael did. He went into the smoke and attacked the fire and seemed to kill the worst of it. If he had not done that I think the whole building would have gone."

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## Dates fixed for debates on glue-sniffing and kerb-crawling Bills

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Two private members' Bills supported by the Home Office which would control glue-sniffing and outlaw kerb-crawling, considered by MPs to have a better than even chance of becoming law, come up for their second reading in Commons debates next month.

The dates have been fixed for the second readings of the first six Bills in the private members' ballot.

The Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill, which would prohibit the sale of glue-sniffing kits to people under 18, is to be presented for second reading by Mr Neville Trotter, Conservative MP of Tynemouth, on January 18.

The Sexual Offences Bill, introduced by Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake, which would outlaw the soliciting of women for sexual purposes by men, will be taken the following Friday.

On February 1, the Local Government (Access to Information) Bill, sponsored by Mr Robin Squire (Con, Hornchurch) and designed to give more public access to local authority meetings, reports and documents, will be debated.

The following Friday it will be the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill, introduced by Dr David Clark (Lab, South Shields) and aimed at strengthening the protection against destruction of sites of special scientific interest.

On February 15 Mr Enoch Powell's measure to impose legal controls over test tube pregnancies and research on human embryos, will be taken.

The Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Bill, introduced by Mr William Powell (Con, Corby) to stop theft and plagiarizing of computer programs, will be debated on February 22.

The other Bills are Mr Michael Grylls (Con, North West Surrey) Small Business Bill, removing legislative obstacles to the development of small businesses.

Mr John Carlisle (Con, Luton North): Sports Fields and Recreational Facilities Bill, forcing public bodies to tell the Government about the change of use of sports fields.

Mr Gerald Birmingham (Lab, St Helens South-West): Water Authorities (Meetings) Bill: opening meetings to the public and press.

Mr David Madel (Con, Bedfordshire South-West): Education (School Budgets) Bill: obliging education authorities to publish details of school budgets.

Mr Charles Morrison (Con, Devon): Charter Trustees Bill: enabling charter trustees of a town to keep its privileges if absorbed by another local authority.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Con, Newbury): Hospital Complaints Procedure Bill;

### Charities: 2

## Downward trend in giving

According to the Charities Aid Foundation the total income of Britain's charities has in recent years grown fast from £2.4 billion in 1976 to an estimated £10 billion now.

But the growth is not explained by greater public generosity. Donations to charities by private individuals and companies dropped from 25 per cent of the total in 1976 to around 10 per cent in 1981 and may have fallen further since.

Meanwhile, government grants increased from about 7 per cent in 1976 to about 10 per cent now.

Growth has taken place in charities' income from fees and charges for services. These made up 34 per cent of total income in 1976 but now form at least 66 per cent.

Charities and voluntary groups obviously differ in their ability to tap the public for money, but the overall trend is unmistakably downwards. The Charities Aid Foundation estimates that the value of gifts to the United Kingdom's 150,000 charities increased by about a

The growing dependence of the voluntary sector on public money arises in part from the failure of private and business charitable giving to keep up with inflation, DAVID WALKER reports.

third between 1976 and 1981, less than half the rate of inflation.

Corporate purses have also been shrinking. The *Directory of Social Change* estimates that charities gave £132 million to companies in 1983, less than 0.1 per cent of total profits. Barclays Bank, the largest corporate donor, gave 0.35 per cent of its gross profits. In recent years the proportion of profits given to charities by such companies as ICI and British Petroleum has also slipped, although spokesmen insist that contributions should not be calibrated on the basis of profits; they say that in cash terms contributions have risen.

Not all voluntary groups are registered as charities, a status which confers tax and rates privileges, but the trends appear to be the same for them. Voluntary groups are raising

more in fees - for example the rents paid to voluntary housing associations. They are increasingly subcontracting work from local authorities, providing care for the elderly.

Dr John Posnett of York University, who has studied the figures, predicts that the voluntary sector will take over a large proportion of the state's welfare work in future years.

Mr Paul Sommerfeld of the London Voluntary Service Council says that that local authorities have in the past turned to voluntary groups because they could experiment and provide social care more flexibly; they are better at stimulating people's energy than councils. But, he says, it is welfare on the cheap since labour is provided by volunteers or grossly underpaid people.

Tomorrow: An anxious future.

## Work for artist at picket lines

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

Six artists are working in industries in the North-east, painting the workers of a brewery, photographing the effects of the miners' strike and creating a stained glass record of the workings of an architect's office.

The temporary placements of artists with six industries in the area is paid for by a mixture of public and private funds and is being pioneered by the Sunderland-based Artists Agency.

A further four placements are being established, one for a writer working at Durham and Frankland prisons and Low Newton remand centre; a second for a writer working with the public employees' union Nape; another for a visual artist with Tyne Tees Television; and a fourth for a musician in residence at a hospital for the mentally handicapped.

The six artists now working each have an individual base, ranging from Cameron's Brewery to the headquarters of the Northumbria Police both in Hartlepool.

The London painter Simon Granger has been given a studio in Aycliffe Hospital, which accommodates 470 mentally handicapped people, and works alongside the residents who produce their own paintings.

A joint exhibition of his and their work recently opened at Darlington Arts Centre.

Val Close, aged 35, who returned to the North-east after spending two years working in New York, has a studio and living quarters at the Northumbria Police headquarters, where her work is on display.

The photographer Keith Pattison was invited to work in Eastington, where the miners' strike is still solid, and has photographed picket lines, outings for miners' children, and the distribution of food parcels.

The landscape painter Simon Rivett has been based at a local library and recently has been working in an aluminium plant near by.

"At first there was a great deal of curiosity and quick visits by the community", Mr Rivett said. "The response has since become more particular and rewarding."

The GLC is to start an arts administration course specifically for black and other ethnic minority people at a cost of £90,000. It will begin in September and last for 12 months, employing up to 15 trainees.

## Grief of the train-bomb families



The widow and mother of one of the victims looking at his picture during the requiem.

## State funeral rejected

From John Earle, Rome

A state funeral for the 15 victims of Sunday's bombing of the Naples-Milan express was at the last moment turned into a Requiem Mass after most of the relatives refused to participate.

The place in Bologna Cathedral where the coffins would have been empty during the Mass celebrated yesterday by the Archbishop of Bologna and attended by President Pertini.

The families indicated that they regarded their grief as a private affair and wished to have the dead buried in their home towns.

Their attitude, if not one of protest, was a clear expression of distaste for a showpiece ceremony broadcast by state television and also attended by 16 other bishops, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, three government ministers and party leaders.

At a rally afterwards in Bologna's main square, again boycotted by most of the victims' families, the Mayor, Signor Renzo Imbeni, denounced the state's ineffectiveness in combating right-wing terrorism which, he said, had claimed 140 victims in a series of crimes since 1969.

The guilty had never been found. "The state fails to bring to justice those responsible for these massacres."

One reason why the crimes committed over the years in Milan, Brescia, Bologna and elsewhere, had not been prevented was "because of connivance, complicity and protection inside the apparatus of the state".

Signor Imbeni, a Communist, said the Government had seriously underestimated the danger from this kind of terrorism. He called for a new political will and new policies to eradicate it.

The Mayor was greeted by cries of "Justice, justice from the 50,000 people gathered in the square on a bitterly cold day. He was embraced by a grim-looking President Pertini."

Afterwards, a few hundred demonstrators from the extreme-left Democrazia Proletaria party broke away and staged a small procession, carrying banners denouncing the banned P2 Masonic lodge and leaders of the Christian Democratic Party.

Police investigating the bombing have appealed to people travelling by rail on Sunday to come forward with information, however insignificant it might seem. The impression among the public is that little progress is being made with inquiries.

## Yugoslavs get petrol, travel perks

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Government has given a new year gift to its people by abolishing petrol rationing and the cash deposit required before foreign travel.

These measures were introduced two years ago to restrict petrol consumption and curb the outflow of hard currency.

The measures mean that Yugoslavs who have been rationed to 40 litres of petrol a month can now buy it freely and can also make shopping trips to neighbouring countries. But the price of petrol has been raised to 100 dinars (about 34p) a litre with fluctuations according to exchange rates, which means the price itself prohibitive.

Foreign travel has gone down by half over the past two years. This is partly because of the cash deposit Yugoslavs were obliged to place on leaving the country and partly because the currency continued to depreciate. Travel and especially shopping in hard currency areas became extremely expensive.

Yugoslav living standards have been declining over the past three years while inflation continues to gallop. Last year it reached 60 per cent.

## 130,000 flee from Cambodia battles

From Nait Kelly, Bangkok

As Vietnamese and Cambodian government forces continued their offensive yesterday against guerrillas in western Cambodia, 23,000 more refugees fled into Thailand to escape the fighting.

More than 130,000 have now crossed the border since Vietnam's new offensive began six weeks ago.

The 23,000 fled from what appears to be an imminent attack at Ampil, headquarters of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, under sporadic shelter for four days.

The Vietnamese have moved tanks and armoured troop carriers closer to Ampil.

A few miles to the southwest, guerrillas made more unsuccessful counter-attacks at Nong Samet, which the Viet-

namese captured on Tuesday. They are also striking at Vietnamese supply lines, according to an official of the front.

The camp leader at Nong Samet, Mr Liew Ne, confirmed heavy guerrilla losses during their defence of the base. He said 53 guerrillas and 85 civilians were killed and about 150 seriously wounded.

On another section of the border the Khmer Rouge army, the strongest of the guerrilla forces, claimed to have killed and wounded more than 300 Vietnamese soldiers in an ambush. They said they trapped the Vietnamese as they were moving westwards towards the border.

Fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnamese was also reported in the Phnom Penh mountains south of the key border town of Aranyapraphet.

PREMIER DIES: Mr Chan Si, Prime Minister of Cambodia, has died in Moscow, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported in a despatch from Hanoi.

The agency quoted informed sources as saying that Mr Chan, aged 52, died in hospital on Wednesday while under medical treatment. He became Prime Minister in February 1982.

### Clampdown in Chile

## Opposition leader says no peaceful way out

From Florencia Varas, Santiago

"I see Pinochet as being stronger than before", said the Socialist leader Señor Ricardo Lagos, President of the Chilean opposition Democratic Alliance.

In an interview with *The Times*, Señor Lagos declared that the state of siege and complete press censorship were making any advances towards democracy by peaceful means more and more difficult.

"We are getting further and further away from a solution similar to the one in Uruguay. If things continue like this, we will have to resort to violence, as in El Salvador, in our quest for democracy. The reaction of the junta to the letter sent last week by the Democratic Alliance shows that the armed forces have no intention of looking for a peaceful way out", he said.

The response of the Navy's Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Merino, to the opposition's request for a return to democracy before 1986, the ending of the state of siege, respect for human rights and an elected Parliament, was that he had thrown the letter into the waste-paper basket.

The total rejection of this letter means, according to Señor Lagos, that under present conditions, there is no possibility of a dialogue between the Government and

the opposition, and that "this is something which European and American politicians must take into account when they visit us and talk to us about pressing for discussions".

Señor Lagos recognized that much of the activity of the opposition was not positive. "We have still not found an effective way of acting under the state of siege since there is no way of communicating with the general public because of press censorship. If these conditions continue in 1985, there is no doubt that the situation will be polarized, with General Pinochet on one side and those who support armed struggle on the other, without the centre being able to express itself."

He said the White House in Washington worried by the polarization of the political situation, but did not believe that this was enough to warrant withdrawing its support of the Chilean Government. The opposition would continue with organized protests as the only means of achieving mass demonstrations against the regime.

PRIESTS HELD: Two Roman Catholic priests and two nuns are being held here after their arrest on Christmas Day for handling out anti-torture tracts, an official spokesman said (AFP reports).

## Hanoi likely to put more on trial

Hanoi (AFP) - Several new trials of people accused of anti-communist activities can be expected in Vietnam in the next few months, according to sources in Ho Chi Minh City.

Eight people were sentenced to death on similar charges in two trials this month.

The latest trial, in which three people were condemned to death for attempting to overthrow local authorities, was officially reported on Wednesday.

About 2,000 other, including 80 Buddhist monks, are likely to be tried in Ho Chi Minh City between now and next April, the sources say.

The trials will hear charges of opposition to the Government, described by officials as counter-revolutionary activities, and corruption and common-law crimes.

The Vietnamese News Agency reports that three prisoners in a southern re-education camp have been sentenced to death on charges of trying to topple the "local revolutionary administration".

They had served as soldiers of the Saigon Government before it fell to the communists in 1975.

The camp is in Song Be province. Sixteen other prisoners there, also former soldiers, were sent to jail, according to the agency.

## PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

## 8-year log of freedom in retreat

By Caroline Moorehead - South Korean Christian pastor passed through London this month on a mission to inform the West of the continuing abuse of human rights in his country.

A respected figure for his work on social justice and liberation theology, he has been imprisoned five times in about 10 years on a variety of political charges.

Although there is liberalization on the surface in his country, he says preventative action below is growing ever more severe. The attacks have simply become more subtle. The pastor does not want to be named, fearing persecution of his congregation in Seoul.

While Christmas has traditionally been regarded as a time of amnesty for political prisoners in various regimes around the world, the holiday this year would seem to offer little promise.

In 1984, there has been an increasing tendency to persecute, imprison and assassinate. Two-thirds of the world's countries are known to use torture.

The first political prisoner written about in *The Times* was an Indian former minister in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet, Ashok Mehta. That was on March 8, 1976.

From the end of January 1980 it has appeared every week with very few exceptions, setting out the cases of about 300 people, the columns occasionally feature whole families or groups rather than individuals - from 75 different countries.

The abuse of human rights has shown a steady rise in the past two decades. In *The Times* on Christmas Eve 1968, Richard Harris rated about 50 countries according to their record.

Uruguay and Chile did particularly well. Each is now known for its political intimidation; all rate very low in the *World Human Rights Guide* produced by Charles Humana last year.

We have featured 29 countries in 1984: the Soviet Union and Turkey five times each, Czechoslovakia, Taiwan and Uruguay three times, Kenya and Indonesia twice. Among these prisoners, there have been at least 12 releases, two conditional.

Our four March prisoners, Armin Philipp of East Germany, Hsu Ching-Fu of Taiwan, Salah Boughamti of Tunisia, and Douglas Lukele of Swaziland are all now free, showing that releases are as geographically widespread as arrests.

Most dramatic this year has been the worsening situation in Turkey, where in the aftermath of the 1980 coup many thousands have been detained, including MPs and trade unionists.

There have, of course, been improvements. After the military coup of March 1976, thousands "disappeared" in Argentina. The abduction of civilians, use of torture, summary executions carried out by paramilitary squads were all reflected in the prisoner of conscience columns of the late 1970s.

With the new Government, however, has come a marked change of attitude and a desire to inquire into the brutality of the past decade.

On September 20 this year, the National Commission on Disappeared People presented its 370-page report to the Government on 8,960 cases of disappeared people. Some of those featured have been extremely distinguished, like Douglas Lukele, former Attorney-General and High Court judge in Swaziland. Some have been very old, like the Roman Catholic bishop of Shanghai, Ignatius Gong Pinmei, aged 83, held in almost total isolation for 29 years.

Many are also ill, confined in appalling conditions and ultimately made desperate.

Washington's Vargas Saccone, a 33-year-old Uruguayan lawyer in detention since the age of 21 on suspicion of belonging to a guerrilla organization, has repeatedly tried to commit suicide.

China: Bishop Ignatius Gong Pinmei.

Uruguay: de Vargas Saccone.

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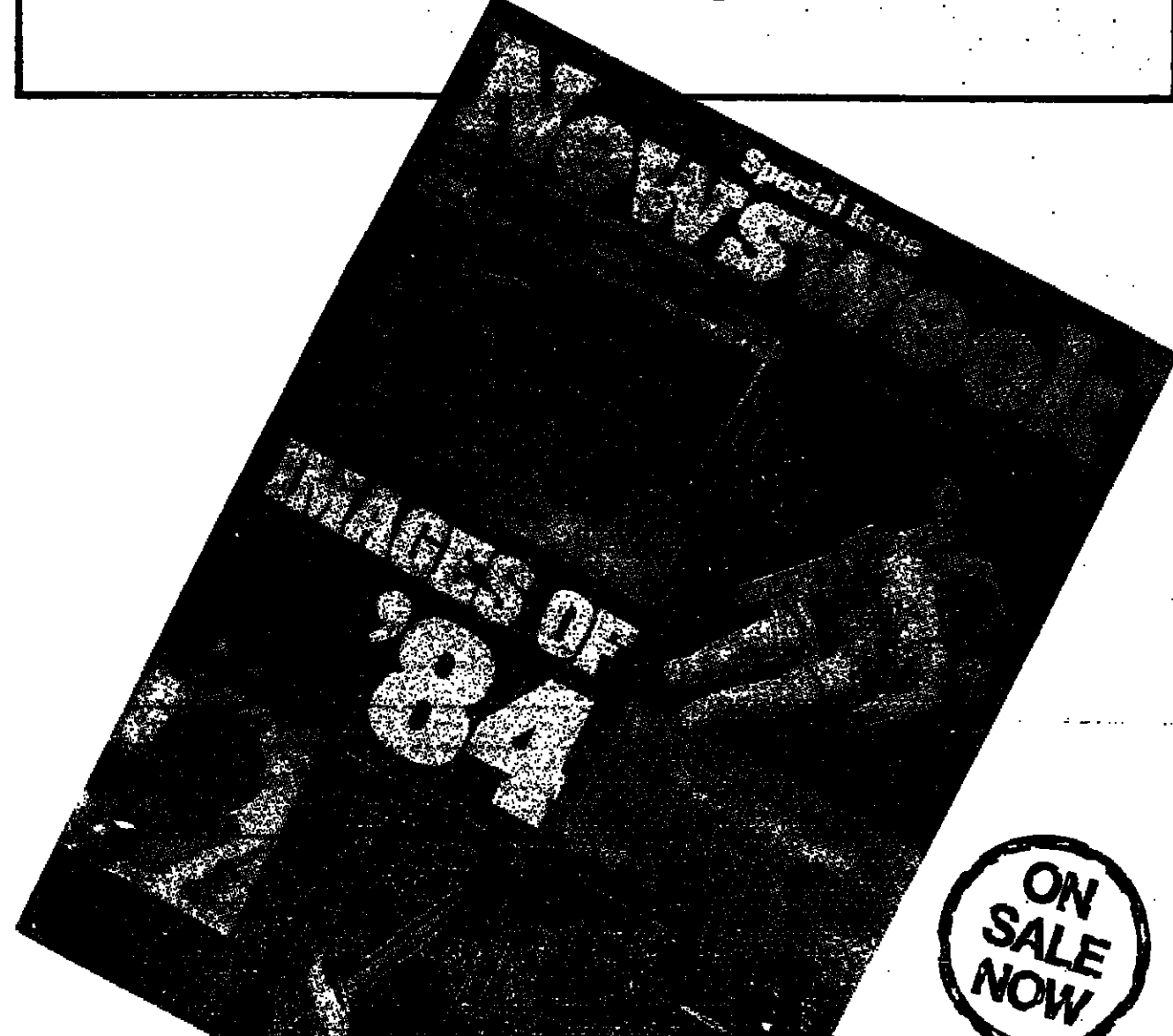
Uruguay: de Vargas Saccone.

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# 1984 IS HERE AGAIN.



Outside views. Inside information.

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PRISONERS  
OF CONSCIENCE  
8-year  
log of  
freedom  
in retreat



Royal following: The Maharajah of Gwalior at his palace with the supporters who have never let him lose.

## Five more die in Indian poll battle

From Michael Hamlyn  
Delhi

Another five people died in election clashes in Andhra Pradesh yesterday as supporters of rival political parties battled it out in the streets as well as at the hustings.

On of them was killed by police fire as attempts were made to separate the warring groups. This brings the total killed during the elections to 26.

Around a quarter of the 390 million electorate went to the polls yesterday in 116 seats in six states and two union

territories. In addition, in 180 polling stations, electors were being given a second chance to cast their ballot because of election malpractice the first time round on Christmas Eve.

The most important contest yesterday was in Andhra Pradesh, where the eccentric film star Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao was leading his party for the first time into parliamentary elections. In the last elections in 1980 Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) party made almost a clean sweep, winning 41 of the 42 seats in the state.

But since then Mr Rama Rao

founded his Tejga Desam Party, and led it to an overwhelming victory in elections to the local legislature in January 1983. Earlier this year Mrs Gandhi failed in a bid to have him and his Government removed and he was restored to power among general celebrations.

In another key contest yesterday Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, faced a stiff challenge in the Gwalior constituency of Madhya Pradesh. He was opposed by Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, who would be Maharajah of Gwalior if

there still such things as princes. The Maharajah has never been defeated in his own princely state.

On the last day of campaigning someone handed Mr Vajpayee a garland containing an empty hand grenade. He mistook for a coconut and tossed it into the back of his jeep, where it had been loaded it would have blown him to smithereens.

"Anyone who can mistake a hand grenade for a coconut does not deserve the support of the electorate," growled one of his opponents.

## Extremist's nephew is handed over

From Michael Hamlyn  
Delhi

A nephew of the dead Sikh extremist leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was returned early yesterday to face the tender mess of the Indian intelligence services anxious to question him about possible connections with the assassins of Indira Gandhi.

Mr Jasbir Singh, aged 22, has been circling the globe ever since he left Dubai on December 14 and headed for England. Once at Heathrow he sought political asylum, but it was refused and after a meeting between the Indian High Commission and Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, he was ordered to be deported, on the ground that his presence was not good for public order in Britain and might strain Indian-British relations.

His supporters delayed his departure by an appeal to the High Court in London, but this was disallowed and he was despatched back to Dubai. Refused entry there, he went on to Thailand, which also declined to have him, and so to Manila. The Philippines authorities temporarily detained him and he was quoted as saying: "It will be certain death for me if I am sent to India instead of Abu Dhabi, where I have lived for the last eight years doing business."

A special Indian Airlines flight was laid on to Manila to fetch him back, and he was accompanied to Delhi by officials of the Indian Home Ministry and security officials.

## Paper shut by Franco gets £2.9m

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid

The Spanish Government has agreed to ask Parliament to pay more than 580 million pesetas (£2.9 million) to the owners of a newspaper closed by the Franco regime.

The principal owner, Señor Calvo Serer, said the money would be used to relaunch the evening newspaper *Madrid* in the capital after a 13-year enforced absence.

The decision to pay was taken at a regular Cabinet meeting in Madrid on Wednesday. It reflects a series of post-Franco court rulings in the owner's favour, including one made by the Supreme Court last year fixing the amount of compensation.

The payment will be the beginning of the end of a story of repression which began nearly two decades ago when Señor Calvo Serer took over as publisher, bought out the majority of the other shareholders and turned the paper into the most outspoken daily in Spain.

After a series of hefty fines, *Madrid* was silenced for four months in 1971 by government order. The cause was a leading article which, although ostensibly advocating the prompt retirement of General Charles de Gaulle, actually referred to General Franco.

On November 25, 1971, Señor Alfredo Sanchez Bella, then the Minister of Information and Tourism, revoked the newspaper's permission to publish, alleging it was not properly registered.

## Lee hint on constitution alarms his opponents

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

One of Singapore's two opposition MPs has voiced disquiet about Mr Lee Kuan Yew's statement that he might modify the one-man, one-vote electoral system. He pledged his party would resist any changes.

In the aftermath of Saturday's general election, at which the loss by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) of two seats out of 79 was interpreted as a serious setback, Mr Lee's remarks have passed by almost without comment in the local media.

But at his first post-election press conference, Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, leader of the Workers Party, who retained the Anson seat, said: "It seems to me incredible that just because they lost two seats in Parliament Mr Lee should want to revise the whole system."

Apparently piqued by a 37 per cent vote for opposition candidates, an increase of 13 per cent on 1980, Mr Lee expressed misgivings about one-man, one-vote and said it might be necessary to introduce safeguards to ensure people do not use their votes to coerce the government.

He had spoken in similar vein before polling day and although he declined to elaborate when questioned, Mr Lee is not the sort of man to make such remarks lightly. Official sources expect there to be no further word from the Prime Minister's office until he has studied the returns exhaustively.

Mr Jeyaretnam said Mr Lee's response showed a determination not to give up power. He added: "Does he not accept the verdict of the people? We will resist anything that tinkers with the constitution. I say the people of Singapore will resist it and we will lead them in that resistance."

There is no disguising the

shock within the PAP at the result. That the loss of two seats out of 79 should be interpreted as a disaster might appear ludicrous but for the fact that well over a third of the electorate voted for the opposition in what was clearly a protest against unpopular policies.

Some PAP sources are acknowledging privately that Mr Lee's attempts to foster breeding by graduates while encouraging the lower order to be sterilized have proved emotionally unacceptable too many.

Some also speak of re-examining the proposal to raise the age at which enforced savings can be withdrawn from the central provident fund.

Mr Lee's next step will be to name his new Cabinet, possibly by Tuesday, which is expected to include his son, Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong.

No date has yet been set for the opening of Parliament, where Mr Jeyaretnam will be joined on the opposition bench by Mr Chiam See Tong, leader of the Singapore Democratic Party.



Mr Jeyaretnam: "We will fight"

## Budapest's economic reform

# Profit motive and the envy factor

Hungary's economic reforms continue to excite interest in both the West and East. Despite price rises, the Government remains firmly committed to building up an efficient economy which can enjoy the unreserved confidence of its allies in the Warsaw Pact and its friends in the West. In this second and final article on Hungary, Richard Bassett, Vienna Correspondent, describes some of the latest developments.

Almost weekly, Hungary provides evidence that there is no slackening of pace in its economic reforms. A thriving bond market in the last six months has turned the basement of the National Savings Bank into what is virtually a mini-stockmarket, while three months ago a state industry manager was elected for the first time by the votes of his workers rather than by ministerial decision.

Hungarian bankers and Government economists make much of their country's commitment to root out the inefficiency which smothered overcentralized economies in Eastern Europe.

In particular the Government is determined to wage war on unprofitable state enterprises in a manner suggestive in some ways of the swinging axes wielded on some Western economies. This process will not be harmed by an intake of younger blood to the Government. There were a series of promotions early this month to fill vacancies created by the

retirements to two ministers. For the first time in Hungary's post-war history, a woman in her 40s, Dr Judit Csehak, was made a Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Laszlo Marothy, aged 42, was also appointed as a Deputy Prime Minister.

On August 13 the Hungarian Minister for Industry, Mr Laszlo Kaposi, personally informed 700 workers of a Budapest company dealing in office equipment that the entire firm would be liquidated because of its losses, exceeding £300,000 a day. It was the first time in post-war Hungary that a state enterprise had closed without a legal successor.

A few weeks later, a larger concern had its work-force cut by 3,000 as a result of similar losses. In both cases, the decisions were executed only after a long and sometimes bitter bureaucratic wrangle.

Such cost-cutting exercises, while not creating unemployment, cause considerable dislocation as workers are regrouped and retrained to take up jobs in more profitable factories. At present, there is no question of Hungary suffering from an unemployment problem, but increasingly with developments in public enterprises unable to keep up with those in the private sector, a marked and for many Hungarians disturbing gap has opened up between wage-earners in the private and state economies.

The shops in the Vaci Utc, rapidly recovering its pre-war

sonbriquet of "Budapest's Bond Street", are packed with fur coats and watches costing thousands of pounds. Familiar Western names like Pierre Cardin greet rather bewildered Russian officers to whom the fashions remain the closest they will ever probably get to the West. If the Russian

wagging over villas in Tenerife and the speed with which long holidays to the Far East are sold out.

These rumours are sufficient to worry the Government, which is uneasy at the sign of any social tension and has none of the rhetoric or experience necessary to deal with the problem of the conspicuously rich.

The communist slogans demanding an equal distribution of wealth cannot cope with this new development, nor can the present Hungarian tax system, which is proving itself inadequate to affect the flow of invisible earnings.

Already, there have been allegations in several Hungarian journals of a profiteering "Mafia". But as one lawyer with a flourishing private practice pointed out to *The Times*, wealth in Hungary, however great, cannot compare with what the West considers wealth. A house with five or six rooms is the norm in the west but requires a vast outlay of capital in Hungary. The highest income officially is not more than 50,000 forints (£1,000) a month.

Talk of legislation to outlaw "dishonest" incomes is frequent in government circles, but few believe this will bring a lasting solution. The difference in earnings is the inevitable price Hungary has to pay for becoming a reliable and efficient partner of the West.

Concluded

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## Soviet invasion of Afghanistan a day of infamy, Reagan says

By Our Foreign Staff

Russia's invasion of Afghanistan, which took place five years ago yesterday, was condemned by Western leaders, but was hardly mentioned in the Soviet press.

The most forthright comment came from President Reagan in Washington yesterday before he left to visit California. He compared it with Pearl Harbour.

Referring to Roosevelt's statement after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, Mr Reagan said: "A president once called a certain day a day of infamy. I guess that's exactly what this is also. The anniversary of a day of infamy."

There was no excuse for a great power like the Soviet Union to be doing what it was doing to the people of Afghanistan.

In a statement on Wednesday, Mr Reagan praised the Afghan "freedom fighters" and said the presence of Soviet occupying forces seriously impeded the improvement of US-Soviet relations.

"We cannot and will not remain silent on Afghanistan. We join our voice with other members of the world community in calling for a prompt, negotiated end to this brutal conflict."

"The US has made clear to Soviet leaders that the presence of Soviet occupying forces in Afghanistan constitutes a serious impediment to the improvement of our bilateral relations."

His attack comes before Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, are due to meet for arms control negotiations in Geneva on January 7 and 8.

Mr Reagan said "Liberty is

not easily stolen from a people determined to defend it", and added that his deepest hope was to "speak of freedom restored to Afghanistan by this time next year".

In Britain, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said the suffering of the Afghan people would end only when the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its forces.

Afghans organized a demonstration in London yesterday and delivered a protest note to the Soviet Embassy.

Under banners saying "Death to Russia", "Soviets out of Muslim lands" and "Mujahedin will defeat infidels", the thousand demonstrators marched to the embassy chanting "God is Great". Other groups joined the protest.

Four Afghans were permitted to take a letter to the embassy, but could only find four Bulgarians in the driveway. The Bulgarians would have nothing to do with the petition, so it was left on the railings. A few moments after the Afghans left, a member of the embassy staff picked it up, examined it in a bemused way and put it in his pocket.

In Moscow, the press avoided any mention of the anniversary, but one daily showed it was not forgotten by devoting a page to the life of soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Pravda steered round the subject and wrote about the 20th anniversary of the Afghan Communist Party.

But *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published a report on serving in Afghanistan, with articles on an injured soldier, atrocities, a mother's letter and advice for new recruits.

It used the standard phrase to



London protest: A child's message to Moscow at yesterday's rally, when Afghans marched to the Soviet Embassy. (Photograph: Dod Miller).

describe the Soviet military contingent, saying it was fulfilling its internationalist duty.

A report asked what "internationalism" meant to troops in Afghanistan. Several soldiers answered by giving sketchy details of atrocities they said they had witnessed. A sapper said he saw the results of a massacre in a town square where bodies had been doused with petrol and set alight. Other people had been shot.

In Kabul the Afghan Government marked the anniversary with a ringing defence of the new order and only passing reference to a Soviet winter offensive against the resistance.

Radio Kabul said five years had passed since the Communist Party, "with the aid of Afghanistan's great friend, the Soviet Union", had saved the country from counter-revolutionaries and US and Chinese imperialists.

## Peres near key deal on Voice of America

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The Voice of America, the Government-financed radio station, has reached or renewed agreements with five countries to expand its broadcasting range as part of a huge modernization and expansion programme supported personally by President Reagan.

The agreements, which have been signed in the past year with the United States Information Agency, are with Costa Rica, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Belize.

Administration officials were quoted yesterday as saying that the US is close to agreement with Israel on locating a VOA transmitter there to beam broadcasts into the Soviet Union with sufficient power to overcome jamming. The US is believed to have turned to Israel after Turkey and Greece rejected Washington efforts to get one of them to take the transmitter.

Administration officials have said that the project in Israel is deemed so important that President Reagan has sent a personal message to Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, endorsing the request. The apparent aim is to share a transmitter in Israel with Radio Liberty, a US-financed station that broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

Under a \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion) project, VOA is to increase the number of languages in which it broadcasts from 42 to 60. The Administration says that the Soviet Union and its East European allies - except Hungary - try to jam all VOA broadcasts except those in English.

VOA has transmitters in Greece, West Germany, the Philippines, Morocco, Liberia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Botswana. It shares a short-wave installation with the BBC in Britain. New, more powerful transmitters are to be constructed in Morocco and Sri Lanka under the renewed agreements.

## Sri Lanka at the crossroads

## Fear rules as hope dies

From Trevor Fishlock, Colombo

Few people here doubt that Sri Lanka stands at a dangerous crossroads. The almost hopeless initiative to find a political answer to the Tamil separatist crisis has, predictably, failed. The political atmosphere of the country is now permeated by profound pessimism and anxiety.

The dynamics of geography and history, and embedded fear and prejudice, have worked relentlessly to place President Jayawardene and his Government into the tightest of corners, and Sri Lanka on the brink of intensified communal strife.

In recent weeks the political situation has deteriorated steadily and the army's hold on parts of the Tamil north had become increasingly precarious. The Security Minister has warned that he expects an increase in separatist terrorism, the mining of roads, attacks on police stations and kidnappings.

It was clear throughout the all-party conference, which sought a way out of this bitter ethnic quarrel, that the most the Sinhalese majority would concede in devolutionary power would be far less than the Tamil minority would accept.

Now, with Tamil guerrillas putting a violent edge to their demand for *Eelam*, a separate state in the north and east of the island Sri Lanka is bracing itself.

Although there was an inevitability about the collapse of the political initiative this week, the outcome showed plainly how scant the President's options are.

The proposals, for a limited devolution, were rejected as too meagre by the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the group led by 14 former MPs who seek regional autonomy. They were opposed by the main opposition party. Significantly, they were also opposed, as too progressive, by the influential

Sinhalese Buddhist clergy, who have a strong sympathy to the Tamils.

There was also some dissent in the Cabinet and the ruling party, leading the President to sack his Industries Minister, a militant Sinhalese nationalist.

Although the Sinhalese form about seven-tenths of the 15 million population, their perceptions, rooted in more than 2,500 years of history, give them a minority complex.

They see the Tamils in the island, a fifth of the population, as being all of a piece with 50 million Tamils in Tamil Nadu state of southern India, 15 miles across the Palk Strait. They believe that to give the Tamils even an element of self-rule would open the way to Tamil domination, even invasion from India.

For their part, Tamils here have developed a sense of injustice since independence in 1948. In 1956 the seeds of renewed strife, planted in ancient suspicions, were nourished by the introduction of a law making Sinhalese the official language. An MP warned at the time that Sri Lanka could have two languages (Sinhalese and Tamil) and one nation; or one language and two nations. Divisions were increased, with Tamils complaining of discrimination. The English-language bridge between the two communities was allowed to crumble.

The terrorist groups which began to emerge might have remained just an irritant had not the mostly Sinhalese army and police reacted brutally. The army was not used to this sort of struggle and is ill-equipped and poorly trained.

The Government has sacked more than 200 soldiers, but the army and police have antagonized and alienated the northern Tamils.

There is a belief here that the only way out of this deadly tangle lies with India. Relations between the two countries are poor. Sri Lanka says, and India denies, that Tamil terrorists train in India, that the campaign is managed by Tamils there, and that the Indian Government has the ability to choke the supply line.

Sri Lanka's thibak India is keeping them on edge as to bring them into line with Indian thinking, that it was pestered by Sri Lanka's pre-war stance and its refusal to align with India on matters like Afghanistan and the Falklands.

President Jayawardene may now ask Mr Rajiv Gandhi for help in conducting the terrorism. Mr Gandhi might want something in return; and he also has to consider his relationship with Indian Tamils.

If, as the Colombo Government expects, the trouble will intensify, there could be a Sinhalese backlash against Tamils living in the south. Tamils are understandably anxious and the Government will want to keep the south quiet. The Government feels, however, that the chances of backlashes have lessened because the Sinhalese did themselves considerable damage in last year's sectarian violence.

A spokesman for TULF, which no longer represents the Tamils to the extent that it once did, but is the only negotiating link, said a settlement could still be patched together but there were "incredible odds" against it.

"The price of failure," he said, "will be anarchy and extreme chaos and violence. And the sadness of it is that if it comes to that we will find ourselves, in a few years, sitting in Geneva, talking about the political solution we should be seeking now."

## US mixes signals on Star Wars

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The Reagan Administration is sending out mixed signals about the extent to which it is prepared to offer its controversial Star Wars missile defence plan as a bargaining chip in arms talks with the Soviet Union on January 7 and 8 in Geneva.

One point is clear: the United States is determined to press ahead with the \$26 billion (£22 billion) - research element of

advance of the Geneva talks, which will be headed by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, has both confirmed and contradicted a senior Administration official who said that Star Wars issues "have to be on the table... and they surely will be".

Mr Weinberger said early this week that President Reagan would not give up development of the Star Wars plan - properly known as the Strategic Defence Initiative - in return for reductions in Soviet nuclear weaponry. "It is the only thing that offers any real hope to the world, and we will not give that up", he added.

The apparent hardening of the Administration's position may reflect increased US confidence that it has the support of Western Europe for the research project. Mrs Thatcher wholeheartedly backed it in talks with President Reagan at Camp David last Saturday.

Both Mr Weinberger and Mr Robert McFarlane, the national security affairs adviser, appear to be saying that although the Star Wars project will not be subject to any negotiations on the reduction of offensive weapons, it might be negotiable in bargaining sessions on defensive systems.

The Administration is keenly aware that it could lose allied backing for the research if it is seen to be too inflexible about negotiating an agreement with the Soviet Union on banning space-based weapons.

Leading article, page 11

## Warsaw Pact calls summit

The Warsaw Pact will hold a summit of its Political Consultative Committee in Sofia, Bulgaria, by the middle of January (Reuters reports).

It will be the first gathering of Warsaw Pact leaders since June 1983 and Mr Konstantin Chernenko's first trip abroad as Soviet President.

the programme over the next five years - a position which in general is supported by the Nato allies, and especially by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister.

What is not clear is whether the United States is ready to negotiate about the testing and deployment of Star Wars weapons once the research programme is completed. West European leaders, including Mrs Thatcher, have expressed general concern about the possibility of a military build up in space.

The Administration may be engaged in a campaign of deliberate obfuscation in order not to give away its negotiating position to the Soviet Union in

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## Hero dies near White House

Washington (AP) - The ashes of a decorated Second World War hero, who died aged 20 years as a homeless wanderer, are to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery today, three weeks after he froze to death in a park facing the White House.

Jesse Carpenter, aged 61, awarded the bronze star for heroism in France, was found dead on December 5. A veterans' spokesman said he did not know whether Carpenter ever applied for the benefits to which he was entitled.

Iran sued

New York (Reuters) - Mr John Costa, an American held hostage by the hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner in Tehran, has accused Iran in a \$110 million lawsuit of plotting with the hijackers. The suit also alleged that negligence by Kuwait Airways annulled his hijacking possible.

Train hits bus

Seoul (AP) - A passenger train crashed into a bus at an unmanned crossing, killing 14 bus passengers and injuring at least six others. The bus was reported to have ignored a red light before driving into the crossing near Naju, 250 miles from here.

Nicaragua toll

Managua (Reuters) - A total of 4,600 people died this year in the war in Nicaragua between right-wing Contra rebels and Sandinista troops, the Defence Minister, Señor Humberto Ortega, announced. He admitted the guerrillas had increased their operational mobility.

Killer flood

Lima (AFP) - A flash flood triggered by a mudslide and a burning dam killed about 20 people and destroyed two bridges and a number of houses in the mining town of San Vicente, 200 miles south-east of Lima.

More jump ship

Flensburg, West Germany (Reuters) - A new batch of 112 Polish tourists on a shopping excursion jumped ship, their ferry boat, Pomerania docked in the Baltic port of Travemünde over Christmas.

Bethlehem row

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - A priest was injured in a clash between Armenian and Greek Orthodox priests over rights to clean the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Hospital fire

Delhi - About 150 mothers and their newborn babies were evacuated from a hospital here after a fire started in a basement store room. Some of the women were carried down a 100ft ladder.

Given the bird

Boston (AP) - Swiss doctors have identified aggressive birds as a hazard for joggers, after noting 12 attacks on runners in two years. Five assaults were by European buzzards, attacking in their April-July breeding season.

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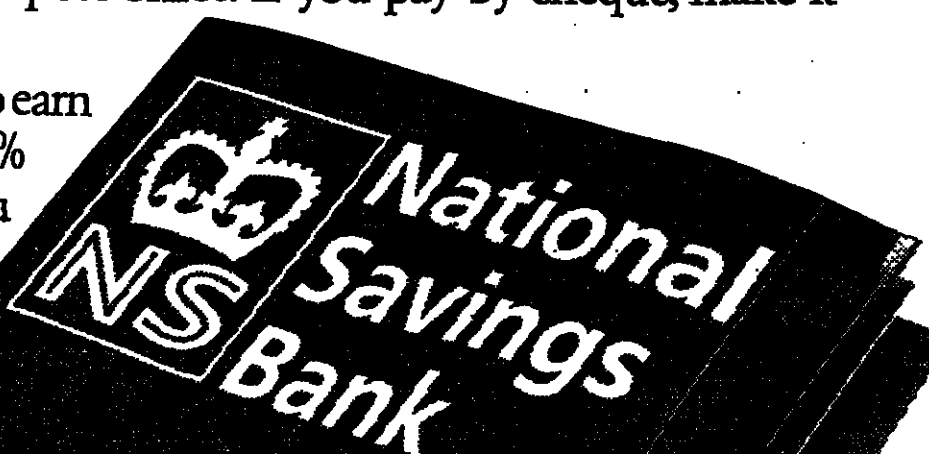
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## THE ARTS

The grandly-conceived 'British Film Year' planned for 1985 promises much that is safe and provenly successful from the mainstream, and almost nothing from the vigorous independent sector: David Robinson investigates how much may be achieved – and how much more will be missed

## Hollywood awards should not be the ultimate accolade

Nineteen-eighty-five is to be British Film Year. The project, first announced last May, is to be financed by the film and television industries together with the Department of Trade and Industry and the British Overseas Trade Board – a government support for the national cinema. It sets out to be "a celebration and a promotion of British cinema", aiming to

"Encourage everyone to go to the cinema because that's the best place to see films."

"Highlight one of Britain's great national assets: our unmatched wealth of film-making talents, skills and facilities."

To promote the cinema at home a travelling road show will visit major cities, bringing all the traditional paraphernalia of movie publicity – personalities, prizes, talks and seminars, local radio and television link-ups. Northern Ireland is regrettably excluded from the tour, for reasons not clearly explained.

At a more immediately practical level, the three major exhibition circuits have pledged themselves to spend one million pounds a month each on improving their theatres, which will no doubt make things better for patrons, but at the same time will only help to consolidate the monopolistic situation which for generations has handicapped our cinema and defied improvement.

Abroad, promotional events planned for "the major commercial markets across the world" have as the centrepiece the British Film

Year Pavilion: "One of the most impressive promotional vehicles for the United Kingdom ever to leave these shores. Designed by Burton Contracts, the Pavilion consists of a series of space-age modules" in which "visitors will experience specially programmed audio-visual displays, trailers, clips and stills from forthcoming British films, and exciting exhibitions of posters, sets, equipment, costumes and previously unseen memorabilia from British films from the 1890s to the present day."

The promotion and celebration of British films at a time when their standing and confidence are high deserves the most positive support; and David Puttnam's admonishment ought to be redundant: "We're working damned hard to try and make it work. If you choose to be cynical about it, if you choose to ignore it, if you choose to trash it, we are in a lot of trouble."

With three months to go before the official launching of British Film Year, however, it is not cynical, "trashing", unresponsive or target-trotic to admit certain dangers. The most crucial of these is that the space-age Pavilions, the admen's ballyhoo and the euphoria of enthusiasm could all too easily obscure the ultimate and central concern – what kind of cinema it is that is to be promoted.

By definition, this British Film Year is intended primarily as a promotion of the industry; and this is stressed throughout the literature put out by the organizers. The 60 names of members of the organizing

committees include no single creative film-maker (though the chairman is Sir Richard Attenborough and the vice-chairmen include the producers Oliver Parsons and David Puttnam). Only once does the word "art" slip out, in a letter from the Minister of State for Industry, Mr Norman Lamont, which speaks of "the cinema's unique and magical combination of technology, skill and art".

In the end though it is art, whether good or bad, that this industry is making and marketing; and it is art that the public buy, though it would never do to tell them so. So what manner of national movie art are we to celebrate in British Film Year? The publicity claims "In the 1980s, with superb new sound and projection equipment and with the vast sums being spent by film-makers on the type of special effects that can only be truly appreciated on the big screen, the cinema can offer a more exciting and rewarding experience than ever before". There is already a debatable implication here that the cinema of *Gremlins* and *Ghostbusters* is of its nature more exciting and rewarding than the cinema of *Buñuel* or *Renoir* or *Fellini* or *Ford* or *Chaplin*; or (to come nearer home) *Hitchcock* or *Reed* or *Lean* or *Powell* or *Jennings* or *Anderson* or *Bill Forsyth* or *Stephen Frears*.

The programme specially selected for screenings abroad consists of 21 films made since the late Seventies (in what are styled "The Revival Years") augmented by eight British Academy Award winners, dating back to Olivier's *Hamlet*. (*Chariots*

Expunged from his filmography: Ian Charleson (right) in Derek Jarman's *Jubilee*, with Karl Johnson and Linda Spurrier

of *Fire* and *Gandhi* figure in both lists.) It is an impressive group of films, even if the "Britishness" of one or two enterprises might be questioned: *Merry Christmas*, *Mr Lawrence* after all was made by a Japanese director in Japan and New Zealand; while *Tess*, though nominally a Franco-British co-production, was made by a Polish director who for legal reasons was not able to set foot on British soil.

The omissions are more troubling. Although there are two films by Bill Forsyth and two by Hugh Hudson (one of which, *Greystoke*, only emerged, according to the director's own testimony, much crippled), there is none for example by Lindsay Anderson, Ken Loach, Nicholas Roeg, Ken Russell, Mike Leigh, Derek Jarman or John Schlesinger, all of whom command particular reputations abroad. There is no work by women directors or black directors.

There is nothing from the independent sector, except perhaps for *The Draughtsmen's Contract*. The common factor among the films is that they are all nice, bright entertainments, with

nothing to rock the boat, as *Looks and Smiles* or *Britannia Hospital* or *Babylon* or *Jubilee* might do. It is notable moreover that out of the 21 films 14 find their subjects in the past. Every one of our eight Oscar winners has been a period piece. It is a somewhat partial image of Britain that we are projecting.

Perhaps it reflects something of the nature of the "renaissance" we are inclined currently to celebrate. The first book dedicated to "The New British Cinema", James Park's *Learning to Dream* (Faber, £3.25), brings more sharply into focus some of its perils and pitfalls.

The book is evidently a hasty work, run up as a *piece d'occasion* for British Film Year, and staggers from bland truisms ("A central challenge for the film-maker is to find a way of using the camera to express the film's main themes") to hair-raising generalizations (the credits director of the National Film School with "cinema films deal with the enigma of the image, whereas television drama deals with the explanation of the image"). Praising the cinematic culture of the

new generation, while condemning "those who criticise or write about film and manifest in their work a deep lack of awareness about the achievements of world cinema and a profound level of cinematic illiteracy", Mr Park's only invocation of film history is to speak of Max (sic) Sennett and D. W. Griffiths (sic).

As instance of the new cosmopolitanism he notes that Michael Radford (1984) keeps a flat in Paris in which to write. The historic sense is to be judged from the book's opening sentence: "The history of British cinema has been one of unparalleled mediocrity... with the exception of a few major directors".

In large part based on interviews with British directors of the Eighties, the book accurately reflects the dominating success motive: "Newly developed sources of finance are looking... to anyone who seems capable of taking British films to new heights of commercial success or critical acclaim". From this follows a rejection equally of past achievements and of the private, exploratory avant-garde. "The past failures of film in Britain" present a

challenge; but not, it seems, the successes. "You cannot get away with the sort of old-fashioned humanist directing that they were doing ten years ago."

"Private film-making and ghetto art" are lumped with "rapid commercialism" for rejection. There is no mention in the book of Mike Leigh or Terence Davies (recipient of this year's British Film Institute Award), or of any film by Derek Jarman. (Typical of the "New Cinema" mistrust of independent film-makers was the edict that went out after Ian Charleson had a success in *Chariots of Fire* that Jarman's *Jubilee* be permanently expunged from his filmography.)

It will be a fatal failure both in the "New British Cinema" and British Film Year if there is no place or understanding for cultural heritage, and for the mavericks, misfits, adventurers, experimenters, dissenters, dreamers and failures of our cinema alongside those who have made the grade to the American markets and the Hollywood awards which we see, to our peril, as the ultimate accolade.

## Galleries

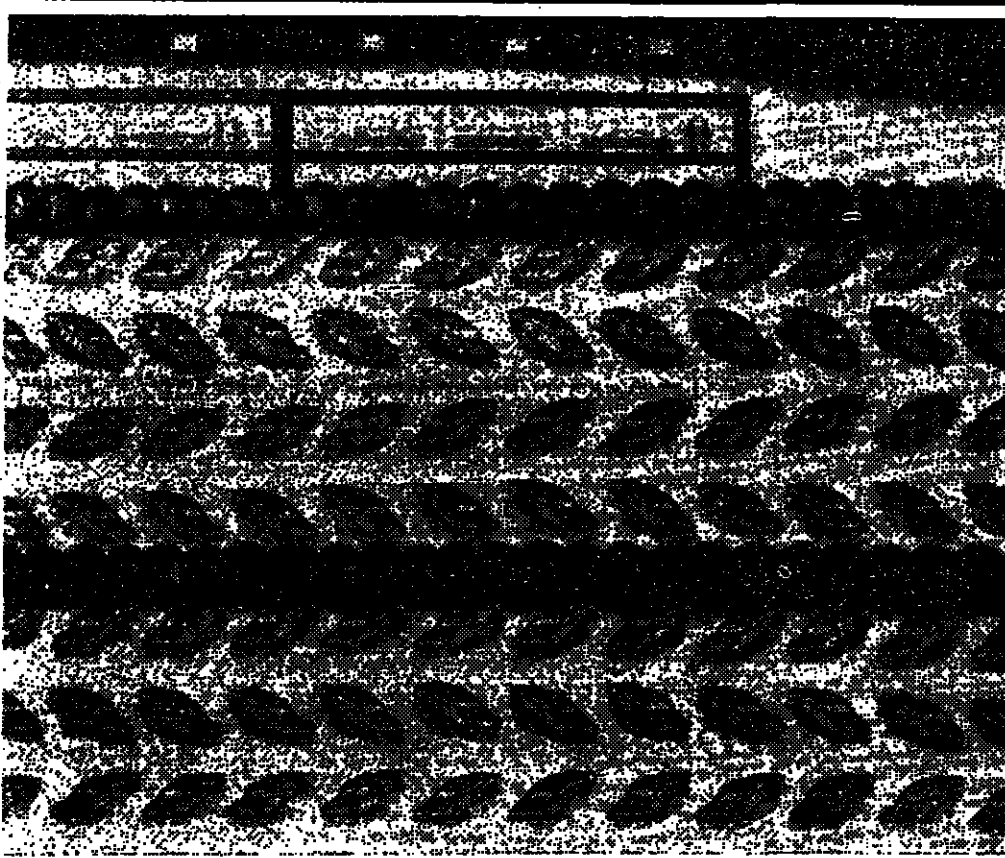
### Automobile and Culture

### Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

When you consider how the automobile has changed all our lives during the twentieth century, it is perhaps surprising that it has not inspired more than it has on the arts in general. Looking round the imposing and imaginative show *Automobile and Culture* at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art until January 6, one could be forgiven for wondering whether this might not be because the cars themselves are frequently so complete and expressive as works of art that anything else would be gilding the lily.

The great advantage of this show is its location, still in the "Temporary Contemporary" downtown, which used apparently to be a police garage, and has all the space in the world to show the original cars as well as artists' extrapolations. It begins at the beginning – before the futuristic designs of Leonardo da Vinci. Then, in the 1900s, the car itself gradually starts to appear as a picturesque prop, as a relic decorously parked and quietly indicative of luxury and the high life.

One or two artists are evidently worried by the danger it represented, to peace and quiet, let alone life and limb,

Contemporary totems: detail from Roger Brown's *Grand Spanning Dodge* (1975)

and the most extreme expression of this feeling in the show is no doubt the Finn Gallen-Kallela's frantic vision of a generously proportioned nude lady suffering high-speed rape by a friend at the wheel of a racing motor. Shortly after, for the Italian Futurists the speed of the thing became its principal

attraction, implying everything which excitingly separated the present from the past, and so the modern myth of the motor was well and truly born.

But, as we know, magic of that kind all too rapidly fades into everyday reality, and in American painting, of the interwar period we find that

Benton and Hopper and others very soon start to take the car for granted as an ordinary tool of life. It figures, naturally, in the finest American photographs of the period, and still stands for luxury in a few paintings like Tamara de Lempicka's famously glamorous self-portrait at the wheel.

But, at least until the Fifties, the car itself is the thing.

All these gleaming monsters (for one does not, on the whole, remember just how big a lot of the early cars were) compete for our attention as the shape changes from upright and spiky to low and smoothly streamlined, reaching a sort of *ne plus ultra* in the experimental Phantom Coupé Six-Passenger Coupé of 1938, made not far away in Pasadena, a bug as smooth and black and sinister that perhaps even Kafka's hero would not have minded being transformed into it.

With the Fifties come the fins, and Steinberg to celebrate them, and a whole nexus of mode and camp and nostalgia out of which eventually grows Pop Art. The show has one of Peter Phillips's pin-ups somersaulting amid flying car-parts, and, more redactively, the Picasso sculpture of a *Baboon and Young* (1952) the head of which is made out of a toy car. There is also the classic Kienholz piece of sculptural erotica *Back Seat Dodge '38*, with its suggested lovers inextricably entangled, and the show is rounded off by half-a-dozen specially commissioned pieces, of which those by the best-known artists, such as James Rosenquist and Ed Ruscha, alas do not quite match their earlier animated versions on the auto, such as Ruscha's unforgettable *Burning Gas Station* of 1965-66. Even here, there does not seem to be so much a mere artist can do, faced with the car itself, most potent of contemporary totems.

John Russell Taylor

## Television

### Vidal's stimulating cynicism

Film-makers are inclined to respond to Venice as the Flopsy Bunnies responded to lettuces; there is much greedy consumption of the luscious delights on offer and the effect is ultimately soporific. However, the first part of Vidal in Venice (Channel 4) achieved the opposite impression.

"Brace yourselves for our first cliché", commanded Gore Vidal as we embarked on the obligatory voyage through the Grand Canal, and his stimulating cynicism continued to propel us with renewed interest through the panorama of candy-striped gondola poles, sun-kissed cupolas and shuffling gangs of tourists.

In addition to Vidal's sardonic tone his fascination with the less admirable aspects of the Venetian character made the familiar tales of Adriatic history all the more enthralling. With a touch of transatlantic puritanism Vidal expounded the role of greed in Venetian mastery of the seas and lovingly flicked through the renaissance archives in search of evidence of blasphemy, corruption and evil-doing. His only regret was that the archives did not record the exploits of the hit-man in holy orders who was dispatched to assassinate the Holy Roman Emperor.

Despite the world-weary sophistication of Vidal's asides to the audience, and a digression in search of his

Venetian ancestors, a considerable amount of history was packed into the hour, and the producer/director Misha Scorer luckily enjoyed a budget adequate to visit Crete and Paxos, and to hire the ideal complement of helicopters to illustrate the narrative.

Frankenstein (ITV) also enjoyed a substantial budget, which might have been well deployed in hiring a script editor to dispose of lines like "Dr Frankenstein, what have you done?" Robert Powell, Carrie Fisher and David War-

ner headed an accomplished cast which also included Susan Woodbridge, who made her name as Daphne Manners in *The Jewel in the Crown*. It was, despite the best efforts of all these players, a plodding, literal-minded production which made the viewer long for the BBC's casual expertise with costume drama. It is sad when an actress emotes soulfully in a romantic interlude and her voice is obscured by the crackling of her crisp petticoats.

Celia Brayfield

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Andrew Clark

## Opera

### Musicians come to the rescue

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg  
Opernhaus, Zürich

The best theatre directors rarely make the best stage directors – as Claus Helmut Drese has proved with his new production

of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for the reopening of the Zürich opera house. It was Drese's gifts as an administrator and conjurer of exciting artistic alliances that attracted the Austrian cultural authorities when they were looking for a new director for the Vienna State Opera. Judging by the way

Drese has consolidated Zürich's reputation over the past ten years, at the same time as squeezing from the city well over £20m in modernisation costs and weathering the social protest it provoked, Vienna has found the right man.

But Drese will have much less scope for staging his own productions when he leaves for Vienna in 1986, and that is a good thing too. With one or two exceptions, Drese's Zürich productions have been dull, arch-conservative affairs, relieved only by an astute choice of singers and the outstanding conducting of Ferdinand Leitner. The new *Meistersinger* has reflected these relative strengths.

Drese places Nürnberg firmly in the early nineteenth century. The opening chorale, which fits in both a baptism and the taking of the church collection, is Lutheran in its plain atmosphere, while the inert conformity of the Meistersingers in Act I and the Apprentices at the start of Act II evoke a grey *bürgerlich* sobriety. Sachs departs for the *Festwiese* in a black frock coat, but most of the costumes for the townsmen seem to have been lifted from the medieval crusader, and the guilds are escorted by the same police posse that accompanied the nightwatchman, an idea uncomfortably close to the saturation presence around the opera house of Zürich's riot police. Jörg Zimmermann's decor is the mean for a hundred-and-one small-town German pro-



Sense of humour and warmth of heart: Donald McIntyre's Sachs

evening – a future Sachs here – and the chorus brought a polyphonic splendour to all their contributions.

McIntyre's Sachs is a natural sequel to his Curlew for Welsh National's *Parifail*. He presented a handsome, seasoned figure, a gentle giant whose domination of the stage matched his sense of humour and warmth of heart. This was also a Sachs of physical strength, at home as much by the work-bench as in the Act II punch-up, capable of man-handling David and the eloping couple with awesome power and stunning Eva with his outburst in the early part of Act III. McIntyre stood front-of-stage for the monologues, a risk that paid off in the way they revealed the inner passions and frustrations of a man who wrestles with the imponderables of life.

The orchestra's two-and-a-half year absence from the pit appears to have done it nothing but good: brass and strings were full of bloom and the string flights immaculate. Leitner invested the finales to Acts I and II with exuberance, and his control over the concerted passages on stage – especially effective in the Act I song trial – was a timely reminder of his gifts as a theatre conductor. With this production Leitner ends his long and productive association with Wagner in the Zürich pit. Like Drese's administration, his will be a hard act to follow.

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## SPECTRUM

## Adrian Mole's Christmas

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Something dead strange has happened to Christmas. It's just not the same as it used to be when I was a kid. In fact I've never really got over the trauma of finding out that my parents had been lying to me annually about the existence of Santa Claus.

To me then at the age of 11, Santa Claus was a bit like God: all seeing, all knowing, but without the lousy things that God allows to happen: earthquakes, famines, motorway crashes. I would lie in bed under the blankets (how crude the word blankets sounds today when we are all conversant with the Tog rating of continental quilts), my heart pounding and palms sweaty in anticipation of the Virgin Beano album. I would imagine big jolly Santa looking from his celestial sledge over our cul-de-sac and saying to his elves: Give Adrian Mole something decent this year. He is a good lad. He never forgets to put the lavatory seat down. Ah... the folly of the Child!

Alas, now at the age of maturity (16 years, four months and three days, five hours and six minutes)... I know that my parents walk around the town centre, wild-eyed with consumer panic, chanting desperately: "What shall we get for Adrian?" Is it any wonder that Christmas Eve has lost its awe?

2.15 am

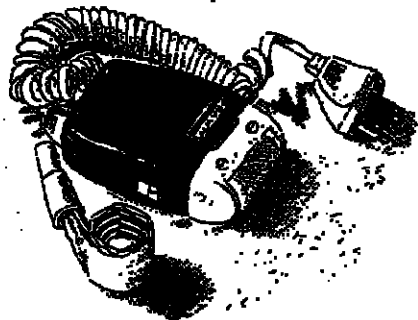


Just got back from the Midnight Service. As usual it dragged on far too long. My Mother started getting fidgety after the first hour of the Co-op Young Wives' carols. She kept whispering: "I shall have to go home soon or that bloody turkey will never be thawed out for the morning". Once again the Nativity playlet was ruined by having a live donkey in the church. It never behaves itself and always causes a major disturbance, so why does the vicar inflict it on us? OK, so his brother-in-law runs a donkey sanctuary, but so what? To be fair, the effect of the Midnight Service was dead moving. Even to me who is a committed nihilistic existentialist.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Not a bad collection of presents considering my Dad's redundant. I got the grey zip-up cardigan I asked for. My Mother said: "If you want to look like a 16-year-old Frank Bough then go ahead, wear the thing!" The Oxford Dictionary will come in useful for increasing my word power. But the best present of all was the electric shaver. I have already had three shavers. My chin is as smooth as a billiard ball. Somebody should get one for Leon Brittan. It is not good for Britain's image for a Cabinet Minister to go around looking like a gangster who has been in the cells of a New York police station all night.

The lousy Sugdens, my mother's inbred Norfolk relations, turned up at 11.30am. So I got my parents out of bed and then retired to my room to read my Beano annual. Perhaps I am too worldly and literate nowadays, but I was quite disappointed at its childish level of humour. I emerged from my



room in time for Christmas dinner and was forced to engage the Sugdens in conversation. They told me in minute mind-boggling detail about the life-cycle of King Edward potatoes, from tuber to chip pan. They were not a bit interested in my conversation about the Norwegian Leather Industry. In fact they looked bored. Just my luck to have Philistines for relations!

Dinner was late as usual, my Mother has never learnt the secret of co-ordinating the ingredients of a meal. Her gravy is always made before the roast potatoes have turned brown. I went into the kitchen to give her some advice, but she shouted, "Get out of it", through the steam. When it came the meal was quite nice but there was no witty repartee over the table, not a single hilarious anecdote was told. In fact I wish I had my Xmas dinner with Ned Sherrin. His relations are dead lucky to have him. I bet their sides ache from laughing.

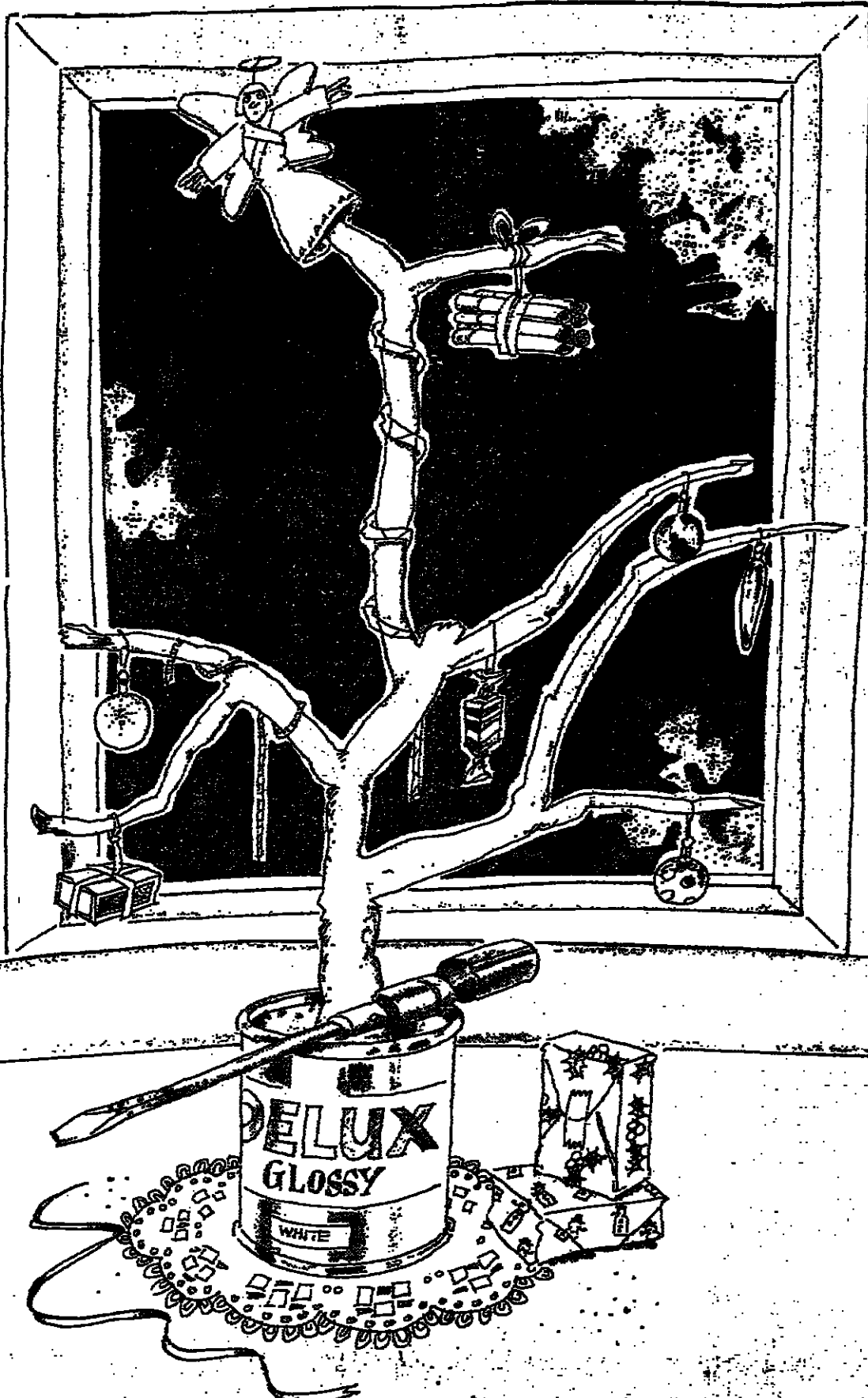
The Sugdens do not approve of drink, so every time my parents even looked at a bottle of spirits they tightened their lips and sipped at their tea. And it is possible to do both. (I have seen it with my own eyes.) In the evening we all had a desultory game of cards. Grandad Sugden won £4,000 off my father. There was a lot of joking about my Father giving Grandad Sugden an IOU, but my father said to me in the kitchen: "No way am I putting my name to paper, that mean old git would have me in court as fast as you could say King Edward!"

The Sugdens went to bed early on our rusty camp beds. They are leaving for Norfolk at dawn because they are worried about potato poachers. I now know why my Mother turned out to be wilful and prone towards alcohol abuse, it is a reaction against her lousy moronic upbringing in the middle of the potato field.

## BOXING DAY

I was woken at dawn by the sound of Grandad Sugden's rusty Ford Escort refusing to start. I know I should have gone down into the street and helped to push it but Grandma Sugden seemed to be doing all right on her own. It must be all those years of flinging sacks of potatoes about. My parents were wisely pretending to be asleep, but I know they were awake because I could hear coarse laughter coming from their bedroom, and when the Sugdens' engine came alive and the Escort finally turned the corner of our cul-de-sac I distinctly heard the sound of a champagne cork popping and the clink of glasses. Not to mention the loud "Cheers".

Went back to sleep but the dog licked me awake at 9.30 so I took it for a walk past Pandora's house. Her Dad's Volvo was not in the drive so they must still be staying with their



Sue Townsend reveals the holiday secrets of the teenager and poet whose diaries are a legend in his own time

rich relations. On the way back I passed Barry Kent who was kicking a football up against the wall of the old people's home. He seemed full of seasonal goodwill for once, and I stopped to talk to him. He asked what I had had for Christmas. I told him and I asked him what he had had. He looked embarrassed and said: "I ain't 'ad much this year 'cos our Dad's lost his job". I asked him what happened and he said "I dunno, our Dad says Mrs Thatcher took it off him". I said: "What, personally?" Barry shrugged and said: "Well that's what our Dad reckons".

Barry asked me back to his house for a cup of tea so I went to show that I bore him no grudge from the days when he used to demand money with

menaces from me. The outside of the Kents' council house looked very grim (Barry told me that the council has been promising to mend the fences, doors and windows for years), but the inside looked magical. Paper chains were hung everywhere almost completely hiding the cracks in the walls and ceilings. Mr Kent had been out into the community and found a large branch, painted it with white gloss paint and stuck it into the empty paint tin. This branch very effectively took the place of a Christmas tree in my opinion, but Mrs Kent said, sadly: "But it's not the same really, not if the only reason you've got it is because you can't afford to have a real plastic one". I was going to say that their improvised tree was modernistic and

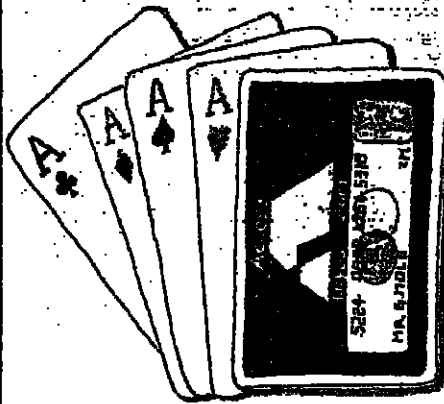
Hi Tech but I kept my mouth shut.

I asked the Kent children what they had had for Christmas and they said: "Shoes", so I had to pretend to admire them. I had no choice because they kept sticking their under my nose. Mr and Mrs Kent laughed and said: "And Mr Kent and me gave each other a packet of fags!" As you know, dear diary, I disapprove of smoking but I could understand their need to have a bit of pleasure at Christmas. So I did not give them my anti-smoking lecture. I did not ask any more questions and politely declined the mince pies they offered... from where I was sitting I could see into their empty pantry.

Walking back home I wondered how my parents were able to buy decent

Christmas presents for me. After all my Father and Mr Kent are both innocent victims of the robot culture where machines are preferred to people.

As I came through our back door I found out. My Father was saying: "But how the hell am I going to pay the next Access bill, Pauline?" My Mother said: "We'll have to sell something, George."



whatever happens we've got to hang on to at least one credit card, because it's impossible to live on the dole and social security." So my family's Christmas prosperity is a thin veneer. We've had it on credit.

In the afternoon we went round to Grandma's for Boxing Day tea. As she slurped out the trifle she complained bitterly about her Christmas Day spent at the Evergreen Club. She said: "I knew I shouldn't have gone; that filthy communist Bert Baxter got disgustingly drunk on a box of liqueur chocolates and sang crude words at the carol service!" My Father said: "You should have come to us, Mum. I did ask you." Grandma said: "You only asked me once and anyway the Sugdens were there." This last remark offended my Mother. She is always criticizing her family but she hates anybody else to do the same. The tea ended in disaster when I broke a plate that Grandma had had for years. I know Grandma loves me but I have to record that on this occasion she looked at me with murder in her eyes.

She said: "Nobody will ever know what that plate meant to me." I offered to pick the pieces up but she pushed me away with the end of the hand brush. I went into the bathroom to cool down, and after 20 minutes my Mother banged on the door and said: "C'mon, Adrian, we're going home. Grandma's just told your Dad that it's his own fault he's been made redundant."

As I passed through the living room the silence between my Father and my Grandma was as solid as a double-glazed window. As we passed Pandora's house in the car I saw that the fairy lights on the fir tree in her garden were switched on, so I asked my parents to drop me off. Pandora was ecstatic to see me at first, she raved about the present I bought her (a solid gold bracelet from Tesco's, £2.49) but after a while she cooled a bit and started going on about the Christmas house-party she'd been to. She made a lot of references to a boy called Crispin Wartog-Lowndes. Apparently he is an expert rower and he rowed Pandora across a lake on Christmas Day. Whilst doing so he quoted from the works of Percy Bysshe Shelley. According to Pandora there was a mist on the lake. I got into a silent jealous rage and imagined pushing Crispin Wartog-Lowndes's stupid face under the lake until he'd forgotten about Pandora, Christmas and Shelley. I got into bed at 1 am worn out with all the emotion. In fact, as I lay in the dark, tears came to my eyes, especially when I remembered the Kents' empty pantry.

Illustrations by Caroline Holden

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## Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

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● Drink: The best champagnes to greet 1985

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## Pure fiction

A Robert Louis Stevenson novella, written almost a century ago but heavily censored in Victorian England, has at last been published in its original form by Stanford University Press.

It is the first time the 30,000 word novella, *The Beach of Falesa*, by the Scottish-born author of such classics as *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*, has appeared in print as he wrote it in 1892, just two years before he died in Samoa.

In the Stanford publication, prepared by Professor Barry Menikoff, a professor of English at the University of Hawaii, the original text is given in full, along with a line-by-line account of how it was bowdlerized.

In an introduction to the story and the book, entitled *Robert Louis Stevenson and The Beach of Falesa: a study in Victorian publishing*, Professor Menikoff writes: "Falesa never appeared in print as Stevenson wrote it. Of all his texts, this was the most mutilated and corrupted. Punctuation was systematically altered, language was revised, distorted or deleted, entire passages were garbled or bowdlerized."

"How this came to be the subject of this study: a story of what happens to a work of art when it is converted into a commodity to satisfy the taste and prejudices of the period; a story of stylistic abuse by printers and proofreaders, of



literary abuse by publishers, editors and friends and finally of the abuse of art by Stevenson himself in sanctioning a corrupt text."

The book was never published as written because, as Professor Menikoff believes, "the book ran counter to some of the most deeply held political, sexual and religious convictions of those responsible for its publication."

The tale is set in the Western Pacific and, using pidgin English and rough slang of the region, recounts the story of a white trader who sleeps with and later marries a stunning native girl, named Uma. It deals with miscegenation, colonialism and the exploitation of brown people.

Stevenson referred to the early printed version of his novella as "the slashed and gaping ruins" of his art. There are no sex scenes in the book, just the description of the "bridal night" focusing on the devotion of the girl and the guilt of the man who has exploited her.

"Now, however, the story of the *Beach of Falesa* is unlikely to disturb even the most refined taste of (anyone) today," Professor Menikoff says.

He was given permission to publish the original manuscript by the Stevenson estates.

Ivor Davis  
in Los Angeles

Advertisement  
When did you last think about rain?

Yes, that's right. Rain. The wet stuff that falls from the sky and later clears from the west. The liquid that comes in under doors or on dogs and cats. The magic stuff that makes taxis impossible to find. The only thing that can make cricketers run.

Rain. Odds are you haven't thought about it for years, if ever. And even if you did, you thought to yourself: "Oh God, it's raining again."

We don't blame you. We'd like you to take rain for granted. Because that means we at the British Rain Bureau are doing our job properly.

What worries us (and we would be less than human if it didn't) is people who seem to think that one kind of rain is much like another. You couldn't be wrong! Drop for drop, British rain is the best in the world.

All right, so it isn't the most sensational in the world. There's nothing in Britain to rival the monsoons of India or the dramatic hurricanes of America. We can't rival those places in the world where the heavens majestically open and a sheet of water falls, until high streets are 6ft deep in it and people go upstairs just to avoid drowning. There are no rain forests here and no raging torrents. Not even much in the way of rapids.

But would we really want things to be that way?

moreover... Miles Kington

## Our weather - long may it rain over us

We at the British Rain Bureau think people would rather have rain that was dependable, regular and reliable. Rain that was soft and friendly. Rain you didn't feel threatened by.

And don't go thinking that British rain is all the same. We are proud of our great regional varieties. The soft hanging rain that drifts across the Cotswolds. The tough, hard-wearing rain that swings in across Dartmoor. The lovely April showers that can arrive in any month, freshen up the landscape and be replaced by sun in 10 minutes, as if Britain was going through some gigantic car wash.

There are seven people who think plain old drizzle has its charms!

Up in Scotland they have invented a special rain of their own called Scotch mist, which is so thin that it doesn't seem to be falling at all, but hovering.

Do you remember that old Punch cartoon in which the English lady is saying to the Scotsman: "The rain seems to be clearing off at last, Sandy?" He says: "Aye, I doot it's threatening to be dry". (We have the original hanging in our Whitehall HQ.)

So next time you hear people singing the praises of foreign rain, give them the facts. Tell them that British rain is still the best in the world. That 100 per cent of the rain that falls in Britain is British-made, and that we import none of it. And that the British Rain Bureau is looking after your rain, night and day; so that grass may grow and rivers may run.

Don't accept any substitute for British rain.

This completely pointless advertisement was placed by the British Rain Bureau, and was paid for entirely out of your money. If you want to know more about the stuff that falls on the just and unjust alike, send off to the British Rain Bureau, the quango they forgot to kill off. We are here to serve you, also to spend our budget like mad before the end of the year so we can get even more money next year.

Write to us at Precipitation House, Whitehall, London. We'd love to hear from you. We'd love to hear from anybody.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 530)

ACROSS

- 1 Lapping (6)
- 2 Larger (6)
- 3 Snake-like fish (3)
- 9 Hardy (6)
- 10 Ask for (6)
- 11 Stand ready (4)
- 12 Early Christian (8)
- 14 Sinner (6)
- 17 Expose to air (6)
- 19 Criterion (8)
- 22 Visage (4)
- 24 Cave (6)
- 25 Amazon rep (6)
- 26 Comrade (3)
- 27 Insist upon (6)
- 28 Excuse (6)

DOWN

- 2 Back scrubber (5)
- 3 Leaped over (7)
- 4 Reminiscence (7)
- 5 Aerial attack (5)
- 6 Donator (6)
- 7 Defunct (6)
- 13 Affirmative vote (3)
- 15 God of light (7)

SOLUTION TO No 529

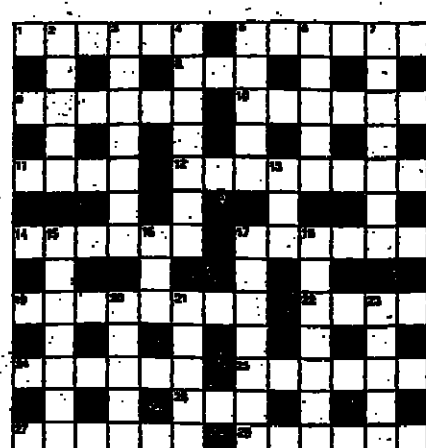
ACROSS: 8 Incarceration 9 Arm 10 Falangist 11 Sci-fi 13 Rubbish

16 Viewing 19 Local 22 Radically 24 Vex 25 Fortune-hunter

DOWN: 1 Visage 2 Scampi 3 Griffin 4 Sinner 5 Gain 6 Bikini 7 Switch

12 CSI 14 Belfry 15 Sea 16 Verify 17 Endure 18 Galleon 20 Cavity

21 Luxury 23 Chum



- 16 Delly (3)
- 17 Hearable (7)
- 20 Saltpepper (5)
- 21 Assume (3)
- 23 Intelligent (5)

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FRIDAY PAGE

# The real woman of substance



How the American actress Diane Baker (left) won her battle to turn the upstairs

downstairs story of a Yorkshire servant girl's rise to wealth and power into a top-selling quality television series

If America's reaction is anything to go by, the majority of British women - and a lot of men as well - will be glued to their TV screens on January 2, 3 and 4, when the mini-series *A Woman of Substance* is shown on Channel 4.

Adapted from Barbara Taylor Bradford's best-selling book of the same title, the six-hour series is the tale of a poor Yorkshire servant girl's rise to wealth and power. All the stock ingredients are there - class struggles, deceitful lovers, catastrophic revenge, vast riches, stark contrasts, reversals of fortune, scheming, ungrateful children, sins being visited on future generations.

But the true story of how one beautiful woman fought against almighty odds to bring this fantasy fiction - which in America has attracted ratings to rival *Dynasty* and *Dallas* - to the small screen is itself a saga.

Stunning American actress Diane Baker, who had formed her own production company some years earlier, felt she was just the person to produce a TV version of the novel.

The author agreed. Though Mrs Bradford had received many tempting offers for TV rights, all were from companies wanting to give the book a lowbrow, *Lace* or *Thornbirds* type treatment.

Barbara Taylor Bradford already knew, liked and trusted Diane Baker, so she sold the rights to Miss Baker's virtually one-woman company, Artemis Productions.

**'I had to take on the big boys and try to beat them at their own game'**

That was the easy bit. The next stage, obtaining the right kind of finance, was harder. Diane, single and in her early 40s, said at her home in Los Angeles last week: "Literally within minutes of buying the book, I was making arrangements with Operation Prime Time, one of the more discerning American networks, to put up some of the money."

"I was working right outside the system, so had to learn as I went. I had to take on all the big boys and try to beat them at their own game. And then came the disappointments. I trudged round company after company and they all said no to my kind of treatment. They wanted a lavish all-American production, set in Kentucky or somewhere, instead of Yorkshire."

"But I knew that wouldn't be right for the spirit of the book. So I decided to come to England for the rest of the financing. I met several

companies, but they also all wanted to do it their way. Eventually I approached the independent firm of Portman Productions, who put up the rest of the money."

"They wanted to show that a British company, with a virtually all-British production, acting and writing team, could take the American market by storm."

**'Underneath I was terrified but when it came to editing I knew we had won'**

Diane next approached the novelist and playwright, Lee Langley, to write the screenplay. "I knew Lee was just the person to do a faithful but dramatic adaptation", Diane said. "The strong story is still there, but with plenty of exciting dialogue, in contrast to *Lace*, for example, where the characters hardly have to say anything."

"Throughout, we were very careful to keep the script truthful. The fact that we had no spare money to throw around actually worked in our favour. We had to get it all absolutely right from the beginning."

"We became paranoid if someone had even a cup of tea too many. I was deeply wounded when any crew member put in a chit for more hours than he'd actually worked. Next time, I shall handpick every member of the set."

"I did feel, though, that the series would need American strength and pacing. Throughout the shooting, I kept thinking of *Gone With the*



Peter Chelsom as Edwin Fairley in romantically playful mood with Jenny Seagrove as Emma Harter

*Wind*, and asking myself why is it so good? Why do people see it time and again?"

The reason, Diane decided, was because it had a broad canvas and contained both intellectual and emotional ingredients. "I decided that a *Jewel in the Crown* approach would be wrong - it was too slow for this book," Diane said.

"I'd never made a big film before, so I was working on hope and trust all the way through. But I knew I must never lose sight of my original objective. It was vital for me to get it right, and it all depended on my vision being carried through."

"Underneath, I was terrified, but when we came to the closing stages of the editing, I knew we had done

it. Then I realized I had been in a state of grand shock for over a year. It was good really that there was never time to stop and ask, will it work, won't it work?"

"We had to be absolutely authentic throughout. Having seen Jenny Seagrove, I knew she was just right for the main character, Emma Harter. Nobody else in the whole world could have played Emma. Then Jenny had such a strong resemblance to Deborah Kerr, who was spot-on for the older Emma."

"We were also determined to have everything exact, down to the Hermes scarf Emma was wearing at a certain point. We went to people all over the place and asked them to open up their wardrobes for us."

"I have the very strong feeling now that it was all meant to be. A guardian angel was watching over me the entire time. One wintry, rainy day in Yorkshire last November, we discovered the right house. It looked deserted, as all the shutters were up, but I walked to the front door and knocked. Ages later, a young man came to the door. He and his mother lived huddled up in a corner of the house."

"We asked if we could look over it and discussed the possibility of using it." Months later, that house became the main location for the series.

Diane said: "There were so many obstacles to making the film, not least of which were a horribly

tight budget and timing schedule. We didn't have the money the networks have, so every penny had to be carefully accounted for. Yet, I knew it must be perfect, with no corners being cut."

**'I've proved that a high-quality series can be as successful as the lowest stuff'**

But she added: "On most film sets, you hear stories of how people didn't get on. This didn't happen with us. It was my very first experience of working in Britain and it's been fantastic."

"I found Channel Four to be a strange and marvellous animal. They were so polite, gentlemanly and understanding throughout. If you look closely during the series, you can see Diane Baker playing, in low-key fashion, a minor part in *A Woman of Substance*."

She said: "I've proved now that a high-quality series can be as successful as the lowest common denominator stuff. The story is a classic woman's struggle, and women all over the world can identify with Emma's plight and eventual success." Already, the mini-series has been sold worldwide, to the Far East, Australia, Spain, and Germany.

And Diane Baker's plans for the future: "I haven't decided whether to do another film or take a course in New York. Though I'm now a producer, I believe in keeping my options open."

Liz Hodgkinson

## FIRST PERSON

### Raw deals in store

This country has always been split by concepts of class: it is now about to be divided in yet another way - those who work in service industries, especially retail distribution, and those who do not.

At present, shop assistants are at best only second class citizens. They are spoken to with rudeness and arrogance, and treated with contempt in the certain knowledge by the public that they cannot in any way answer back or speak up for themselves. They are obliged to work at least every other Saturday and frequently late into the evening, making the visits to theatre and similar outings which other people take for granted dependent on their choice co-labouring with an early rota. Normal weekend family life is a fortnightly occurrence.

The hourly wage is on average considerably lower than that paid to domestic cleaners; working conditions are far worse than those tolerated in factories. For instance, in the company which employs me the day is split into two eight-hour rotas since the store is open from 10am until 8pm. On the early shift, from 10am until 6pm, two breaks are allowed: one of 60 minutes, one of 15 minutes. On the late shift, from noon until 8 pm, one break of 15 minutes and one of 30 minutes is allowed, leaving a total of seven and a quarter hours of continuous standing.

There is no rest room, and the only place to sit during these rest/meal periods is on hard, moulded plastic chairs in the canteen. There is nowhere on the shop floor to ease the fatigue. I have no reason to believe that these conditions are unusual.

While many people are enjoying a ten-day Christmas and New Year holiday, this year, those in the distributive trades will have a rest of only two days between the gruelling run-up to Christmas and the onslaught of the winter sales.

Now a seven-day week is proposed threatening not only the last vestiges of the sanctity of the Lord's Day, but the sanctity of family life. If father or mother works on Sunday and has another day of the week off in lieu, will the children be able to take a day off school to be with them? When will families and friends be able to get together, or is it to be assumed that because of their lowly status such things are of no importance?

Surely six days a week are sufficient for people to make all the purchases they require. After all, retail employees also have to shop - they have less time available than any other section of the population but they manage.

I can hear the mutterings of disagreement: "Well, you know what retail was about when you chose it!" For many there was no choice: They may have had insufficient education to be able to obtain any other employment; they may have lost other, better, jobs through redundancy; perhaps they were too old for retraining.

Can there be any justification for this exploitation in this so-called enlightened age? Or are we hell-bent on returning to Victorian values - of morality as well as of monetarism?

Jean Gold

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Computer fever?

If you have just given your children a new computer game which they have been playing solidly since Tuesday, spare a thought for the young man who caught a fever in the keys of his own home system earlier this year. He tore his skin painfully, and ignored the injury initially, eventually he became quite ill and was diagnosed as suffering from scarlet fever.

This extraordinary tale is recounted in the latest issue of *Journal of the Royal College of Practitioners* by Dr Eric Walker of the University Department of Infectious Diseases at Glasgow.

Scarlet fever is not, as might be commonly supposed, always caught through the respiratory system. It is a bacterial infection caused by one of the strains of *Streptococcus*.

People who have been badly burnt or who have diseases like scabies may also contract this infection directly through the skin. And a number of septicaemias (blood poisonings) caused by other bacteria may develop by this route.

You could be forgiven for believing that medical concern about the dangers of addiction is just a preoccupation of the latter part of the 20th century; heroin, cocaine and glue-sniffing, particularly, being the tragic legacy of the permissive Sixties. You might be interested to visit an exhibition in the next few weeks which shows how an understanding of the problems has developed. Entitled "Morbidity Cravings, the Emergence of Addiction," the exhibition is the centenary of the Society for the Study of Addiction.

Far from being a 20th century phenomenon, concern about the addictive properties of different substances was widely expressed in the 18th century. Alcohol was the first and prime target of concern, but opium and morphine followed in the 19th century.

William Hogarth's engravings of Beer Street and Gin

### Addicts down the ages



Holmes tries cocaine

Lane are the best known depictions of the effects of liquor. Hogarth engraved the copper to show that the children of gin-soaked mothers "looked

shrivelled and old as though they numbered many years".

The exhibition covers tobacco, opium, the early sleeping draughts chloral hydrate and paraldehyde, as well as amphetamines, barbiturates and cocaine.

Sherlock Holmes is, perhaps, the most famous fictional character who indulged in cocaine. Conan Doyle's earliest references were made in the 1880s when it was still believed to be a wonder drug.

As the years passed and medical enthusiasm waned, Dr Watson's approach to Holmes's habit shifted and becomes increasingly critical. In the *Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarters* of 1896 Watson refers to a "drug mania" threatening his colleague's career.

"Open from Jan 2-25, Mon-Fri 9.45am-5.15pm, at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1.

### Winter warmers

The weather may have lulled many elderly people into believing that winter is not a harsh or dangerous season for them. Nevertheless, even a couple of cold days can lead to problems of hypothermia.

It is widely recognized that elderly people who become cold do not realize that it is chilly in their homes - their temperature receptors do not register low temperatures and they claim they are warm. So advice to keep well clothed, with radiators turned up and fires blazing, is often ignored - partly because of economy and partly because the warning seems unnecessary. However, a simple thermometer has been distributed to 110,000 homes by a number of local councils. At a glance it is possible to see what the room temperature is and change the heating if necessary.

The thermometer, with temperature sensitive crystals, is just a card with a scale. Along one band it reads: 10° to 13°C Too Cold, Danger; the next band reads: 16° to 21°C, Ideal. The top band 24° to 27°C states Too Hot, Save It.

The gadget was developed by a Northampton firm last year; initially it was used there, and now Kent, Humberside, Liverpool, Birmingham, the Western Isles, Northern Ireland and Exeter have ordered supplies.

The thermometers are inexpensive and available from Workbridge Enterprises, The Old Laundry, Bedford Road, Northampton. Tel: 0604 21801. Price 25p + VAT and postage. For large orders of 10,000 or more there is a 10 per cent discount.

Olivia Timbs

### When crime is rising, blame the moon

We all know about the influence of the moon on the sea, and many women will be aware of the effects of the lunar cycle on menstruation. Less well known are the possible correlations

between different phases of the moon and aggressive behaviour, and birth weight and delivery time, suicides and murders.

The latest report links the full moon with crime and is published in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

The incidence of crimes reported to three police stations in different towns in India - one rural, one urban and one industrial - from 1978 to 1982 were analysed.

The number of crimes committed on days when the moon was full was markedly higher than on any other day in the month.

A small but comparatively insignificant increase was seen on new moon days.

However, the number of crimes committed on equinox and solstice days did not differ significantly from those on other days, suggesting the sun plays little part in this bizarre story.

The commentators from the Department of Medicine, Patna Medical College, who have previously shown that self-poisonings are also more likely on full moon days, put forward an interesting, if speculative, hypothesis to explain the pattern.

The daily rhythm of the human body - and that of animals - is well documented but not fully understood.

The Indian researchers suggest that this monthly pattern may be something to do with the observation that at least 50 per cent of the human body is water. Some "tidal wave" is possibly generated by the gravitational pull of the moon.

These human tidal waves may cause physiological and biochemical changes in the body which work on the brain and generate the impulse to commit crimes. An idea for a research scientist to investigate in 1985, perhaps.

## Sanderson Sale

Dec. 29th-Jan. 12th

Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm. Thursday until 7.00pm.

Fabrica, wallpaper, bedding and display items, sofas, chairs, dining and bedroom furniture, occasional tables, lamps and accessories at sensible prices.

**Sanderson**

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## HEAL'S SALE

STARTS TODAY

First day sale bargains at our London store.

**2 and 3 seater sofas and chair in brown or cream leather**

From £1,893 to £795 the set. (1 only)

**41 piece porcelain dinner service**

From £227 to £80. (1 only)

**Aluminium briefcase by Rimowa**

From £52.95 to £19.95.

And there'll be more Special Bargains every week of our ever changing sale as well as equally attractive Special Bargains at our Guildford store. You'll also find up to

**20% off most furniture ranges. 15% off most bedroom and children's furniture. 15% off Heal's own fine linens.**

And there's always something new to find... great price cuts on seconds, china, glass, linens, and towels. So be there early.

**MISS IT AND YOU'LL MISS OUT.**

All offers are subject to availability.

196 Tottenham Court Rd London W1 and Tunsgate Guildford





## SOUTH AFRICA DIARY

Michael Hornsby

### No, don't drop in

**Johannesburg**  
One of the few people in South Africa with cause for celebration this Christmas season is Simon Davey, the British consul in Durban, whose premises were occupied for three months by a trio of anti-apartheid campaigners seeking shelter from the security police. Davey spent a total of 35 nights sleeping on the floor of his office as London had decreed that he and his staff must share the discomforts of their unwanted guests, who were not to be left unattended.

All in all, it has been a trying year for British diplomats here, but one that provided plenty of material for the annual Christmas pantos staged by embassy staff in Pretoria last week. This year's effort was called *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the principal boy being played by a Scots lass from Regency.

Having sold the family cow, a wobbly-legged creature called Zola, for a bag of beans, Jack climbs the resultant beanstalk to Cloud-cuckoo Land, where apartheid is "just a pigment of the imagination," and takes refuge in the British embassy from its ruler, a big, bad giant. He is allowed in only after some delicate negotiations with two twitish, monocled and bowler-hatted embassy types suffering from "diplomatic bottom," a painful condition caused by "too much sitting on the fence."

### Midsummer's chill wind

This has been a rather glum and low-key Christmas for South Africa's whites, a manic-depressive bunch who always seem to be either riding a crest of euphoria or else plunged in a trough of equally exaggerated despair.

The main cause of gloom is the falling gold price, still the bell-wether of the economy, and the generally depressed economic climate, which has led to mass lay-offs and widespread business failures.

Downturns in the business cycle have generally coincided with periods of political unrest. Thus a sharp recession in 1960-62 was caused by the Sharpeville shootings and the ensuing international outcry. The tough measures taken by the government to restore confidence stimulated a decade of spectacular economic growth. In 1974 another serious downturn began, partly caused by the world recession after the rise in oil prices, but greatly exacerbated by the 1976 Soweto riots and the chaotic collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire in neighbouring Angola and Mozambique.

Once again, however, a crisis of confidence was followed by a spectacular boom, this time fuelled by a dramatic rise in the gold price. In 1980 South Africa's rate of economic growth - 8 per cent - was probably the highest in the world. Now it has one of the lowest, and the political future is looking distinctly uncertain again.

For the first time in the three years I have been here, I have heard whites at dinner parties in Johannesburg's smart northern suburbs seriously discussing the pros and cons of staying in the country. No doubt this mood of introspection will last until the next boom.

### Seething violence behind the calm

It is the surface stability of white life here that usually strikes the first-time visitor, especially if he or she has just come from watching violent clashes between police and rioters in African townships on European or American television screens. Such scenes seldom get aired here. Most whites know more about Northern Ireland than of life in Soweto or Sharpeville.

South Africa is a violent country, but much of the violence is bottled up in the black ghettos, out of sight and out of mind of white residents and visitor alike. Soweto, the great black suburb of 1.2 million people outside Johannesburg, recorded some 1,400 murders last year, possibly the highest murder rate in the world.

### Rumour on the rampage

Last month an extraordinary mass panic seized whites here as rumours swept Johannesburg and other big cities that blacks were about to embark on a campaign of terror and violence against them.

Anonymous pamphlets urging blacks to "rape a white woman kill a white child" were reported to be circulating. Other leaflets supposedly told blacks to "take the war to the white communities" and to "make the white oppressors afraid in their homes as they have made us afraid in ours."

Newspapers were flooded with calls from people with horrendous tales of gangs of armed blacks roaming the streets and raping white women and children. Firebombs were said to have been thrown into whites-only cinemas. Some callers claimed "personal knowledge" of such incidents and accused the press and police of covering them up.

Businessmen claimed that a month-long general strike by black workers was imminent.

All the rumours proved totally unfounded. No one is sure how they started, though it is suggested that they could have been spread by extreme right-wing agents provocateurs. Of more import than their origin, perhaps, is that they were so easily believed.

# Gandhi: now the real challenge

Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

Rajiv Gandhi's motorcade swung off the road and drew up outside an official bungalow. This was a rest stop, just a pause in the gruelling campaign across this vast land. Mr Gandhi got out and drank some water. Although people bustled about him he was suddenly alone. His expression became pensive and preoccupied. People did not bother him, it was if they respected his brief solitude, his need to withdraw into contemplation of the momentous tasks ahead.

The news from the opinion polls was already good. Mr Gandhi and his men were exhilarated. There would be no fudging of the outcome, no alliances, no need to persuade other groups to cross the floor. Here is the crossroads. Here is the man. And if the polls and other indications are right, here is the mandate.

I had seen Mr Gandhi's pensive look before, in 1980, when, on his brother's death, he was plucked from his valued privacy to begin an apprenticeship in power. He lit his brother's funeral pyre and burnt his own boats. His life with Sonia and their son and daughter, the comradely existence of an airline pilot, were changed utterly. He was reluctant, and Sonia was dismayed. He was, however, dutiful. Because of the way politics had been shaped, his dynastic succession was inevitable. One wonders what Nehru and his fellow idealists would have made of it.

Still, continuity is only part of the story. Voters have chosen Rajiv because he offers hope and the prospect of change and the chance of renewal is eternally irresistible.

The party still bears his mother's name, the Indira Congress, and her words and images are everywhere, so that she rides to battle as a version of El Cid. The images have their vote-winning uses, for Mrs Gandhi retained a great well of support in spite of a growing unpopularity that would have made this election a struggle.

A communist MP has talked scornfully of Mrs Gandhi ruling from the urn. But many people, with the idea of a fresh start in the front of their minds, want to see the Indira Congress consigned to history and the growth of a different and reformed party. They want the real Rajiv to stand up.

His uniqueness is multifaceted. As a Nehru, as his mother's son, as a new man, he has everything going for him. He is no longer a political virgin, for he had four years at his mother's side, watching how the sprawling Congress machine works. But he is untainted, bearing no blame for anything his mother or his somewhat thuggish brother did.

He is also unencumbered in other ways that could make his arrival a genuine turning point. His grandfather was one of independent



Rajiv Gandhi electioneering: popular support, but will he be tough enough?

India's founders and led a body of talented men in the formation of a parliamentary democracy, the world's largest. He took pride in its infant institutions. Mrs Gandhi, too, was a veteran of the independence struggle, her roots in an older India.

But Mr Gandhi, born 40 years ago, was only knee-high to his grandfather at independence. He has known only the new India. Certainly his lineage is the vital fact, but it is his newness, his lack of ties to the past, that people find exciting.

And their support for him is an astonishing act of faith. These 730 million people know little about him; and, in truth, he can know little of the extent of his own resources, his courage, shrewdness, guile, patience, even ruthlessness, that he now has to draw on.

He has taken up the family business, and India waits to see whether political instinct lies in his genes. (His father, Feroze Gandhi, to whom he bears a strong resemblance, was a good MP.)

Rajiv Gandhi comes to power at a time of acute crisis, and his arrival in the leadership is marked by its ambiguities. For here is this essentially unpolitical man leading a very political people. As this election demonstrates, and the newspapers reveal daily, this is a country of great political vigour and enthusiasm full of schemings and schisms, and the antics of idealists and greedy men. There is more electoral gusto here than in America or Britain.

Mr Gandhi arrived on the scene with a famous distaste for the

bribery and corruption which penetrated every level of politics. He was hailed as Mr Clean only because there were so many Mr Dirtyes.

His mother was political to her sinews, a master operator whose horror of insecurity led her to fashion the Congress Party as her own instrument and to consolidate her leadership by breaking up regional power bases. In her reign the party became flabby, venal and arrogant.

This is part of the legacy with which her son has to contend. The party depended entirely on her personality, and Mr Gandhi does not have that sort of personality. One senses that he would like to grasp the stable broom (and, already, some notorious names have gone) but the task is formidable. He talks of cleaning up, but will he also want to attempt to restore the party his mother so assiduously broke up to remove all threats? The Congress was once a great democratic vehicle and its decline is a loss to the democratic idea in India. Its revitalizing would require the broadest vision.

Many Indians are disappointed by its considerable failures and its confusing internal dissensions which in some places threatened its election performance. As a priority, he has to resolve the Punjab question, where minor wounds festered and then burst, where a local difficulty became a tragic failure of political management.

Placating the bruised Sikhs and restoring harmony and proper government to Punjab will be the first great tests of his political judgment and leadership.

India is well disposed to Mr Gandhi, and he rides a wave of goodwill. People are prepared to give him time, but the hopes reposed in him are so high that disappointment would be correspondingly great. He has to become very tough and, of course, there are those who doubt that he is tough enough, and have considerable misgivings about his inexperience, who feel that, while decent and well-meaning, serious and with a strong sense of duty, he may run into trouble. Still, there are no credible challengers in sight and he commands immense loyalty.

India has a Nehru again, but a different one with different ideas and different associates in very different times. He has not had time to invent his own programme and in this election has fallen back on his mother's serviceable ready-made, unity and the threats from without and within.

I do not believe that India would fly apart without a Nehru in power. This is an old country, its roots are deep, and there are many binding forces. Mr Gandhi, like his mother, represents the idea of an India united. The country is excited and hopeful as the new chapter begins, and waits to see how this young man measures up.

Trevor Fishlock

## Bryan Appleyard on the new threats to Britain's film makers

# Will the credits keep rolling?



Two British films that struck transatlantic gold: *The Private Life of Henry VIII* (1933) and *Chariots of Fire* (1981). Today, with negligible audiences at home, only similar blockbusters can hope to cover production costs.

After 35 years the post-war history of state intervention in British cinema has begun to draw to a close. The Eady Levy and the National Film Finance Corporation - both created by Sir Harold Wilson when head of the Board of Trade in 1949 - are to be swept aside, and the NFFC is to be replaced by a new privately-owned "Film Bank" which will receive government support for its first five years and the levy is to be replaced by nothing. In short the Government seems to be pulling out completely, to the dismay of the industry's lobbyists who have pressed for everything from a levy on video cassettes to massive direct state subsidy.

The ensuing argument has polarized along depressingly familiar lines. On the one hand a market-minded government wants the industry to feel the full blast of the bracing free enterprise breeze. On the other there are the "special case" arguments: the industry is a vital cultural ambassador for Britain, its finances are uniquely unpredictable, involving high risks, and so on.

In fact such simplifications are profoundly damaging. Even some of the Government's friends are alarmed that the Bill seems to suggest a failure of imagination. For at the heart of the argument lies a complex and often elusive debate over the future direction of both cultural and film and broadcasting policy.

The problem with the Bill is that it represents an easy way out. Confronted with a British film industry crowding short-sightedly and prematurely about its recent successes, it has taken it at its word and pulled the financial plug.

The Government's glowing words about an industry revival have provided part of the rationale for the Films Bill. Furthermore it has been able to point out - with some justification - that the combination of subsidy and levy which has operated since 1950 has done nothing to halt the steady decline of

the British film production industry. The implication is that complete non-intervention is the only solution left. Ideologically, of course, that may have a certain purity, but it will not produce a thriving British cinema. The virtuous circle never lasts long enough and is always replaced by its vicious counterpart.

Historically British films have suffered from two closely related structural problems: the dominance of the United States both as a producer and consumer of films, and our inability to establish a stable production industry. Ever since Alexander Korda's 1933 film *The Private Life of Henry VIII* unexpectedly struck gold in the US box offices, British producers have attempted to annex America as a potential home market. Numerous production and distribution deals have all failed, however, in the face of the massive imbalance of resources between Hollywood and Ealing.

Logically, therefore, we should be looking to our home market to work out precisely what kind and scale of industry it is able to support. Unfortunately Britain has suffered a spectacular collapse of cinema admissions since the war. In 1945 total admissions were 1,585 million. This year the figure will be just over 50 million. At that level the British market becomes an almost negligible element in the economics of feature films.

A huge success like *Gandhi*, for example, could only gross £2.5m from Britain in 1983 against production costs of £10m. Meanwhile a low-budget "art house" movie like *The Draughtsmen's Contract* - made for £450,000 - would have been inconceivable without Channel 4 money, even with its substantial critical success. In both cases only the American market could cover the investment.

Both British films were huge successes in their own terms and have figured large in the triumphant portfolio the British industry is now

laying before the world. But their finances betray the old imbalance. The current British film revival is narrowly based, highly reversible and, so far, has not led through to a more stable production industry.

But surely, the Government may reply, developments in cable, satellite and video will create a massive new demand which an unfettered British industry ought to be able to exploit. The American problem applies here also, however, in this case compounded by the institutionalized gulf in Britain between the television and film industries. European television has always been more film-based compared to the studio emphasis of the British tradition, an emphasis jealously protected by the unions.

The effect in Europe has been a financial and creative symbiosis between the two industries which barely existed here until Channel 4's brave experiments. The size of the gap is demonstrated by the phenomenal number of independent production companies which sprang up almost overnight to compete for Channel 4's air time. More software for the new television hardware is unquestionably required, but the industry is not geared up to the task.

In this climate the bracing breeze of free enterprise is likely to have a withering rather than an invigorating effect. The Government's silence on a possible levy on video cassettes and on the whole question of enforcing some kind of linkage between television and film is the most significant element of the Films Bill.

The failure to create such a linkage is now being taken to indicate that the Government has not understood the new conditions faced by these media. There is an institutionalized confusion about the nature of the film/broadcasting beast. Its affairs are regulated by three different departments: Trade and Industry, the Home Office and the Office of Arts and Libraries; any attempt to make a connection faces

a bureaucratic obstacle. The Arts Minister, Lord Gowrie, may have recognized this and may now manoeuvre to bring film and television within the orbit of the latter.

Behind the confusion lies the equally confused perception of film as a cultural force. The dominant "official" history of the medium has tended to stress its part in oiling the wheels of democracy via the dissemination of information and knowledge. Clearly much of this role has been usurped by television, leaving cinema polarized between spectacular entertainment and "art".

Meanwhile the British production emphasis has tended to foster a widespread mistrust of the *auteur* theory of film making which in other countries has produced cultural heroes from the ranks of film directors. Alongside Italy's Visconti and Fellini, Germany's Herzog and Fassbinder or France's Chabrol and Truffaut, Britain can scarcely offer one internationally regarded film artist with the same worldwide credentials. It is difficult to believe this is a failure of quality. Michael Reeves, Michael Powell, Lindsay Anderson and, latterly, Neil Jordan and Peter Greenaway would seem to be creatively competitive, yet they cannot achieve the sort of cultural stardom which endorses them with the blessing of a national identity.

It is this failure to establish an international presence outside the mid-Atlantic world of *Chariots of Fire* or *Gandhi* which weakens the industry's case against the Government. Conceivably it is not the industry's fault, and it is simply the victim of a cinematic bias against British films. But the perpetually fraught economic conditions which have enhanced the dominance of the charismatic producer at the expense of the director have not helped.

If the industry is going to speak effectively to the Government it must first unify its voice and acknowledge the peculiar burden of its own history.

## Chapman Pincher

# The mole hunt that cannot be delayed

It is five months since Peter Wright, a former MI5 officer, created an unprecedented furore in Whitehall by breaking his cover to declare on television that British security has been so incompetent and riddled with Soviet moles that a clean-out is urgently needed.

He followed this with a 150-page confidential document supplying first-hand evidence for his allegations, in which he said he was 99 per cent certain that Sir Roger Hollis, the former director general of MI5, had been a Russian spy.

Wright was motivated by the fear that "moles breed", meaning that any long-term Soviet agent in MI5 must have been pressured by Moscow to help insert others who would continue the treachery after he - or she - leaves the service. He suspects that Michael Bettaney, the MI5 counter-espionage officer recently convicted of contacting the KGB, could have been such a new-generation mole. Dismissive statements that Wright's allegations are old and of no current consequence are wrong.

Wright's document has been studied by the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, and the current MI5 management headed by Sir John Jones. Yet it has produced no public response and all that has happened in private is a determined struggle to prevent any real inquiry and to suppress all demands for any improvement to the security and intelligence services.

The Government persists in its belief that previous improvements to security are working well - even though since making that confident statement to Parliament two years ago Mrs Thatcher has been faced with the cases of Geoffrey Prime at GCHQ and Bettaney in MI5.

Those MPs who normally latch on to any security breach on hint of incompetence have been strangely silent while making every effort to capitalize on the far less serious instances of civil servants allegedly leaking documents to newspapers. Some have been urged to wait at least until the Security Commission's report on Bettaney provides a "natural" reason for asking parliamentary questions. In accepting this advice they seem to have forgotten that when the Prime Minister reported on the Commission's last inquiry into security precautions in 1978, following disclosures in my book *Their Trade is Treachery*, she chose a moment when discussion was bound to be stifled - in the middle of the Falklands conflict.

Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, to whom Wright's document was first sent, went on record as saying that he would require a statement when Parliament reassembled. He has failed to secure one and is unlikely to do so.

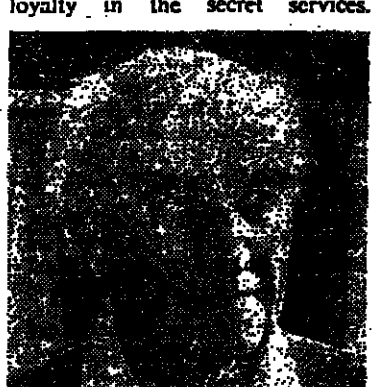
Former MI5 officers who share Wright's fears and have been pressing hard for action in Whitehall and Westminster have been muted by the threat of prosecution under the Official Secrets Act if they try to force the issue by following his lead. They have been told that any inquiry at the moment would be "extremely damaging to MI5's morale". What damage do the authorities have in mind? Is it the distasteful necessity of questioning very senior officers, past and present, about their support for Hollis and other suspected Soviet

agents such as his former deputy, Graham Mitchell?

Wright's document is galling for the Prime Minister's security advisers, for it is first-hand confirmation of many of the facts in *Their Trade is Treachery* which they urged Mrs Thatcher to ridicule in a parliamentary statement on the book. As I have confessed in a newly published book, called *Too Secret Too Long*, almost all the information in *Their Trade is Treachery* was given to me on the initiative of former secret service officers, because they are so deeply perturbed by the danger of continuing Soviet penetration.

After discussion, however, the advisers have detected a full-back position which they might exploit if Mrs Thatcher is forced to make a statement about Wright. She could claim that since all his information had been available to the Security Commission from my book in its 1981 inquiry there is no need for any examination now. Though the Prime Minister may well be encouraged to try this gambit, it would be falsely based because the Security Commission was not required to examine the past penetrations, though many MPs believed it was going to do so.

The second book contains a great deal of new evidence about Soviet penetration previously unknown either to Wright or to MI5 and urges an early warning system for detecting incompetence and disloyalty in the secret services.



Wright: in Australia and immune to prosecution

Though two months have passed since it was published, the only dogs which have barked, among many which could have been expected to give tongue, are those guaranteed to "rubish" it.

The silence of aggrieved security and intelligence officers is understandable since, unlike Wright, who lives in Australia from which he cannot be extradited under the Official Secrets Act, they are vulnerable to prosecution. But why are MPs, including those of the Opposition, so muted?

There is a tradition that issues of national security and intelligence are not normally discussed in Parliament and the Whips are required to do all they can to preserve it. But the silence of MI5 on the Wright disclosures and on the urgent need for some independent supervision of the secret services is doing the nation a serious disservice, for moles do more than burrow and breed. Eventually they surface, and another serious spy scandal, which is inevitable if the defences are not strengthened and effectively monitored, would inflict far more damage on MI5's morale than any inquiry.

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## Philip Howard

# Must do better in 1985

I do not see why my schoolteacher friends should have had all the fun, staying late after school, sucking their thumbs, and trying to think of something positive but not downright untruthful to write about flibbertigibbet Melanie or chickle Jason. So here is an addition to those end-of-term reports.

The Head Girl, Margaret, has had a formidable career term, but I think she has a tendency to take herself too seriously. She also overworks. I disapprove of her plan to read nothing but the 75 volumes of the Stanford Inquiry report over the holidays, and recommend a bit of lighter reading, say Dickens and Mayhew, which would help with her project on Victorian values.

The Captain of Scarecrows, Neil, is a popular and likeable boy, but he still lacks gravitas, and gasses on far too much in the Debating Soc. He needs to read something to give him a bottom of good sense and moral courage. I suggest Demosthenes' *Corona*, and *Tirant Lo Blanc*, the newly translated Catalan masterpiece about a knight who stands up to the barbarians, sorcerers, and monsters who surround him.

Arthur of the Fifts: I am afraid that Arthur still has not learned to read; not even the writing on the wall. We play away with traditional fairy stories like *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Hansel and Gretel*, but he always misses the point.

David of Breakaways: I sometimes think that David speaks more sense than the rest of the school put together. But he has not made the progress we had hoped for, and he is somewhat pleased with himself. I recommend some inspiring penitential reading, say *Pilgrim's Progress* over Christmas, and something funny, say *Wodehouse*.

David of the Borders: In many ways the nicest child in the school, but he needs to develop stamina and fire. I think he should attempt some thunderous and very long reading over Christmas: the six-volume official history of *The Times* would probably be going too far, but Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* might prove instructive.

Elizabeth Regina: Brenda has had a conscientious term, as usual. She managed to get through end-of-term speeches without once mentioning the most important thing that has happened in school, viz. the miners' strike. She is a nice, simple girl, too impressed by the Commonwealth and her own ghastly family. Over the holidays she needs to read something intelligent but frivolous: I suggest *Personal Pleasures*, by dear Rose Macaulay.

In general, the language of the school continues to deteriorate. I sometimes wonder whether there is anybody left outside the Classical Sixth who uses the subjunctive correctly. Children continue to use "may" when they mean "might", "if" when they mean "me", and "whom" when they mean "who", or vice versa. This is often because they are trying to sound posh, and fall into solecism.

The illogical use of "too" continues to spread like a plague of locusts, e.g. "The social fabric never appears too far from collapse." Bright new slang continues to come into vogue. The new word of the year is Pizzaz, from our exchange arrangements with the New York School of English. Pizzaz promises to become as fashionable as its predecessor, chutzpah, from the same source.

The Stuffed Owl Award for the most successful practical joke of the year goes to *In God's Name*, the book alleging that Pope John Paul I was murdered by vampires, or some such nonsense. It was brilliantly hyped and brown paper-bagged. Black marks to the Literary Editor of the School Magazine for making it the lead review on his Books Page.

I am seriously thinking of going into this genre myself next year, with a conspiracy theory based on the propinquities of Oxford geography, pointing the fickle finger of backstabbing at those deplorable of the Oxford Dictionary in St Giles.

Have a good holiday, with lots of fresh air, good reading, and high thinking. We shall meet again next term.



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## DEFENCE AND DETERRENCE

When Mrs Thatcher left Washington on Saturday after talking to President Reagan about strategic weapons and the imminent East-West talks on arms control, she said that she and the President saw matters in very much the same light. Their discussions gave rise to four points. The first was that the United States-Western aim was not to achieve superiority but to maintain balance. The second was that deployment (e.g. missile defence) related to the strategic defence initiative (SDI) would have to be a matter of negotiation. The third was to enhance and not to undermine deterrence and the fourth was to achieve greater East-West security with reduced levels of offensive systems on both sides.

On the first two points, Britain and the United States are in fact profoundly divided in their strategic philosophy. The third is also relevant to this difference, not of emphasis but of view, and was contradicted by the Prime Minister herself in a statement that mutual assured destruction (MAD) had kept the peace for nearly 40 years. The fourth was somewhat inconsistent with her own vigorous opposition to SDI whose consequence, should its research prove effective, would be to tilt the balance substantially in favour of defensive systems for the first time in the nuclear age.

The philosophical division is deeper between the United States and Britain than it is with any of the other European allies. The British, of all West Europeans, are the leading examples of the philosophy that strategic defence is not worth the effort except insofar as it can be achieved by the possession of an ultimate retaliatory weapon; nuclear Britain, in contrast to her European allies, has no proper strategic reserves and no conscription. In contrast to the other military nuclear powers she has no serious civil defence programme to give practical credibility to our capacity to deter which needs evidence that we are prepared to face up to the practical consequences of deterrence failing. For 25 years now Britain's politicians have lulled her citizens into the belief that the only kind of strategic defence we can or should maintain is the nuclear force. This has enabled everybody except the tax payer in general and the small number of professional military volunteers in particular, to be relieved of the need to think seriously about defending the country.

The rift with the United States is thus very deep. It has run like a salt line through the whole structure of strategic thinking for at least the past 25 years, since the Sandys defence reforms of 1957. Possibly the Washington talks may have restored some superficial harmony between the President and the Prime Minister. However, under the pressure of new technology, revealing hitherto undreamed of advances in defence systems, waning public confidence in deterrence as a basis of policy, the politics of East-West relations which see the necessity for arms control negotiations, will all put such a strain on this defensive structure that the salt line may become visible from the surface.

It started soon after the war with the extension of the American nuclear guarantees to a Europe which felt threatened by the possibility that the Soviet Union would use the proximity of the Red Army to engineer political coups in a manner similar to those achieved in East Europe. The arrival of American forces helped to reassure Europeans that the Soviet Union knew it would have to confront the military power of the United States should it try to continue its political advance westward.

Once the West Europeans had been generally reassured by an American presence, they became less seized of the need to provide for their own forces to deter Soviet military aggression. Although NATO defined a force structure which met these goals, called the Lisbon "force goals", West European politicians were unwilling to meet the cost. The people of West Europe preferred the Americans to shoulder the main effort for their defence and even today, 40 years after the war, West Europe provides only 60 per cent of the defence effort in NATO, with the United States shouldering the other 40 per cent in addition to its responsibilities elsewhere.

The two features of this condition, therefore, were that the credibility of the American power to protect Europe with a nuclear deterrent depended on continuing nuclear ascendancy over the Soviet Union. That is now in question. The consequence of that loss of ascendancy has grave implications for the other feature, which was that Europe, having luxuriated for so long under the American guarantee, had effectively abandoned responsibility, for its own defence. Its own armed forces had become the equivalent of branch operations, acting out a secondary role in the whole force structure of nuclear deterrence whose ultimate control lay elsewhere.

The loss of American strategic predominance has been accompanied by a growing anti-Americanism which must spring from this deep-seated dissociation from the efforts and responsibilities required for self-defence in Europe. It is as though the Europeans have come to believe that the commitment of American power to Europe is entirely to support American interests, rather than to help West Europeans defend themselves. Many Europeans thus feel no reassurance in the American military presence; indeed, they have come to think they are being forced to take part in America's wars. A generation of peace has led to a secular conclusion among European young, and not so young, that peace is a natural condition threatened only by those whose professional business it is to prepare for war.

This is the background to the widespread European distrust of President Reagan's hopes for the development of a comprehensive ballistic missile defence system. From the waning confidence in the American deterrent, it seems to be an easy jump to the conclusion that, since the American commitment to Europe was only in recognition of America's interest, the purpose of an American defence system would be to achieve conditions for a more complete disengagement, since the United States would not, or could not, extend such a shield to West Europe. The consequence of such a programme would anyway be to provoke the Soviet Union into a great increase in its offensive missile power to combat the space age screen being developed in the United States.

For Europeans, the prospect of an increase in American continental defences and in Soviet offensive power would leave them with an unfortunate choice. It would lie between providing a comprehensive defence for themselves - something only the French have done for 30 years - or of reaching a solely European accommodation with the Soviet Union. Naturally they would prefer the United States to reach such an accommodation on their behalf. A joint agreement on the future strategic relationship would let Europe off the rigours of both home grown alternatives which would be

forced on them by the consequences of SDI.

In much of her argument with the President, therefore, the Prime Minister was speaking for Europe as a whole. However, there was a special edge to her own criticism of the SDI and to her stout, though unsound, espousal of the doctrine of MAD. There were two reasons for this. The anti-missile treaty will expire before the end of the decade unless the Soviet Union and the United States jointly agree to extend it. In view of the Soviet Union's record of violations of that Treaty, and of the potential attractions of the SDI research programme, it is unlikely to be extended. So Mrs Thatcher naturally fears that a joint effort on missile defence systems by the Soviet Union and the United States will prejudice the penetrating power of Trident, which Britain has acquired from the United States. Secondly, her espousal of MAD is not only historically inaccurate (the doctrine has only been around since the late 1960's when the possibility of Soviet parity became accepted in Washington) but militarily unproven and, as can be detected from the trend of public opinion polling of attitudes to the deterrent, politically unconvincing.

That has led the Prime Minister to her other misapprehension about the need to preserve a balance of strategic nuclear forces between the super powers. It is not a tenable proposition for a number of reasons. First, a balance of nuclear missiles takes no account of the underlying antagonism between the two systems. It overlooks the very different force structures of the United States and the Soviet Union by trying to concentrate on only a very small part of their overall armaments where there is some semblance of parity, while all other indices of power show a marked disparity between the Soviet Union and the United States, with the United States much in advance. Secondly, the concept of balance is not consistent with justified American caution about any idea of condominium, which is what the Soviet leadership would like to achieve wherever it could. Given the irresponsible nature of Soviet diplomacy and indications that a sense of equality in the world only emboldens the Kremlin to more provocative policies in peripheral areas, it is a distortion of the strategic relationship to call for a balance of power when that concerns only some manipulation of the arithmetic of nuclear weapons and destructive power.

All this is pursued in the name of arms control. However, while arms control itself has declining utility as a method of controlling the arms race, let alone reining it back, it has acquired political approval, from all those sources of opinion in the West who wish to reach some, indeed any accommodation with the Soviet Union.

Western governments have endorsed the American negotiating position for Geneva, as did the Prime Minister at her meeting. Since then, however, it has become clear that there is a deep philosophical divide between the leaders of Great Britain and West Europe on the one hand, and the United States on the other. Mr Reagan's advisers have made no secret of their intention to go ahead with their research into SDI to a point where they hope the world will be able to reduce its reliance on the strategy of retaliation, which the Soviet Union itself does not operate, and depend more on defensive systems. The European reluctance to share in this search can only weaken the overall Western position in the talks which lie ahead.

## Looking to future on miners' strike

From Mr A. R. Mills

Sir, It comes as no surprise to many people that we are about to enter 1985 with the miners' strike still hanging over us. And it should come as no surprise to both the coal board and Government; yet almost certainly both board and Government anticipated from the onset a much shorter campaign. It is this poor vision which reflects an apparent basic lack of empathy for individual feelings and motive.

It's true that the striking miners' cry of "What will become of our children?" rings somewhat false; the children will be able to find new lives away from the pit with gratitude rather than a sense of loss. But it is also true that the point of argument has shifted from pit closures *per se* to the destruction of whole communities.

Loss-making pits cannot and should not be supported, but neither can we perpetrate another Sutherland Clearance. It now devolves upon the Prime Minister to make some noises of reassurance, to make a genuine attempt to understand that not everyone wants to pull up his roots and that the community is something that should be cherished as the spiritual hub around which our national ethos revolves.

A few words of this simple nature, together with some move toward protecting and redeveloping the endangered regions, might not only send more miners back to work but enlist a little more respect from their families instead of what is obviously a steadily growing bitterness and hatred which will do our country no good in the long term.

Mrs Thatcher should remember Cromwell's wise realization that what he won by force was no victory at all.

Yours sincerely,  
A. R. MILLS,  
1 Warley Road,  
Woodford Green,  
Essex.  
December 16.

From Professor Emeritus Royden Harrison

Sir, Every decent human being must hope that the new year will bring peace and prosperity back to the

## Embryo research

From Dr Eric Jackson Thomas

Sir, As the debate about the Warnock report continues I am increasingly bewildered by the manner in which the morality and ethics of one religious grouping is defined as that which is correct for the entire population of the country.

This was exemplified by Immanuel Jakobovits's article (December 15). He speaks of legally married couples as being part of the Judeo-Christian heritage and implies that by definition this is the only framework in which procreation can occur. There is a distinct proportion of this country who either have no or an entirely different understanding of the Judeo-Christian heritage and there is certainly no absolute right for this heritage to define modern morality.

His article was full of the reactionary ideas abroad in religious circles about *in-vitro* fertilization. It is as if infertility were a divine punishment that is delivered as a result of a personal or collective offence and must be borne by the couple to repay the consequent debt. There is no sympathy in these

responses to the persistent and destructive sorrow that is infertility. It is disturbing that, by their historical emphasis on the family, such responses have caused the very social pressures that infertile couples feel; yet those who voice them are not prepared to hold out the hand of help.

Let us remember that there are many people who are trying to assist couples with this distressing condition without being saddled with Judeo-Christian ideology, but who are no less responsible for that. No scientist, clinician or patient is - or should be made to feel that they are - perpetrating an evil in pursuing infertility work because they do not conform to that ideology.

I hold a sneaking suspicion that Jesus himself might have been rather more sympathetic to these couples than to what seems to be the current attitude in religions derived from Christian beliefs.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
E. J. THOMAS,  
Flat 1, Portland Court,  
11 Whitworth Road,  
Ratcliffe,  
South Yorkshire.

The social and economic damage being done by this struggle can hardly be over-estimated. I believe that public opinion will deal very severely with either party if it declines to resume negotiations with a moratorium at the top of the agenda.

Yours sincerely,  
ROYDEN HARRISON,  
4 Wilton Place,  
Sheffield,  
South Yorkshire.  
December 21.

## Royal Irish Rangers

From Lord Cork and Orrery

Sir, The Government has had under consideration for some time a proposal to shift the regimental depot of The Royal Irish Rangers from Ballymena in co Antrim, to Surenall, in North Yorkshire.

The "logic" of this notion is that the regiment forms part of the King's Division, which is based in Yorkshire, so that administrative and possibly financial "tidying up" would result from such a move. You may care to consider, however, under two headings, military and political, what else can be expected to result.

1 (military). The Royal Irish, being the amalgamation of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Ulster Rifles and Irish Fusiliers, are the only fully Irish regiment remaining in the Army List and recruiting almost wholly in Ireland. The depot is the "home" of the regiment, the receiver and trainer of all its recruits and situated in the heart of its recruiting area. To remove it entirely out of the country would be to strike a blow at the regiment from which it might never entirely recover.

2 (political). The Ballymena depot is the only permanent Regular military

base in Northern Ireland. To remove it will be seen as the first move in the withdrawal of the British Army from the province. Nor is this only in the future. "This will be the first move in surrender to the IRA" has been, is, and will continue to be, said until the Ministry of Defence announces that the project has been abandoned.

An extraordinary complication in the story is that the Royal Ulster Constabulary is detached from its own roots, to occupy the barracks so vacated. This would involve a move from their present headquarters at Enniskillen to a position some sixty miles farther from the border, thus reinforcing the impression of impending withdrawal.

But the decision rests with the Secretary of State for Defence, not the RUC or the Northern Ireland Office, and perhaps, Sir, you will wonder why he continues to leave this sword of Damocles threatening the people of Northern Ireland and providing magnificent psychological ammunition for the IRA.

Yours faithfully,  
CORK & ORRERY,  
House of Lords,  
December 13.

## Voting in Europe

From Mr J. E. Barham

Sir, This association cannot allow the letter from Mr Christopher Tugendhat and others (December 13) to pass without comment. It is very disappointing to see them using their position in favour of a special privilege for British citizens employed in Community institutions rather than in the wider interest of all British citizens resident outside the UK.

This association gave evidence to committees of both Houses of Parliament which were looking at various aspects of extending the franchise to British citizens living outside the UK. It also submitted comments to the Home Office on the Government White Paper.

We have argued throughout that the right to vote and the right to be represented are important aspects of citizenship which should no longer be denied to certain British citizens because of their residence abroad.

The Government, while accepting that the franchise should be extended, has limited the period of this right to seven years, but recognises that this period is an

arbitrary one. This association believes the time limit to be unnecessary because the decision as to whether or not to use this right will remain a personal decision, as it has always been for potential voters resident in the UK. Thus only those with a genuine interest in UK and European affairs will exercise their right to vote in elections for the Westminster and European parliaments.

There can be no justification in creating a special category of voters whose right is dependent on the nature of their employment, while depriving a much larger number of British citizens employed in Europe and elsewhere in the world of their right to participate in an important democratic process.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. BARHAM, Chairman,  
Association of the Rights of Britons Abroad,  
13 Rue Simonis,  
1050 Brussels,  
Belgium.  
December 14.

From Sir Donald Maitland and Sir Michael Palliser  
Sir, As former British Ambassadors to the European Communities, we

## Implications of the Gillick case

From the General Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties

Sir, Under the English law it has always been presumed, until 1984, that a patient had a right to self-determination so long as he or she could understand the inherent implications of a proposed treatment. This year the Court of Appeal has stood that conventional wisdom on its head in two legal opinions. Both cases are expected to come before the House of Lords.

In *Sidaway v Bethlem Royal Hospital Governors* (Law Report, February 24) the Master of the Rolls stated that there was no absolute standard of information a patient could expect, as of right, to receive. Doctors could refrain from informing the patient of major risks of a treatment so long as he acted in accordance with a body of responsible medical opinion. Thus, no matter how depleted the information given to the patient, the doctor can avoid liability as long as other doctors adopt the same practice (which, on the whole, in this country, they do).

The issue is of substantial public importance because basic information is necessary if the patient is to exercise an informed choice among treatment alternatives. The erosion of the concept of self-determination is also evident in the recent Gillick decision (Law Report, December 21). The Court of Appeal asserted a parental right to total over a minor (suggested to be 14 for a boy and 16 for a girl - which itself flies in the face of conventional wisdom) that it covered "the right and duty completely to control the child", subject to the intervention of a court.

This is to deny the right of a young woman to make any decision about her own health and wellbeing even if she is competent and the treatment proposed is fully recognized and often used. The Gillick case virtually places the minors' position back to the days when the law regarded them as "chattel", where parents could control their every act even if detrimental to their welfare.

This year the Court of Appeal has recognised the right of the medical profession to choose what information their patients should receive, and the right of parents to control the treatment their children should receive. What we have yet to discover is the rights that a patient has to determine what shall be done to his or her own body.

Yours faithfully,  
LARRY GOSTIN,  
National Council for Civil Liberties,  
21 Tabard Street, SE1,  
December 21.

## Lorryloads of trouble

From Mr S. P. C. Plowden

Sir, As a member of the independent inquiry which looked at the effects of banning heavy lorries in London, may I comment on your leading article (December 14) on the GLC's proposal to ban lorries of over 16 tonnes at night and weekends?

Your suggestion that this is the last irresponsible fling of a dying GLC, explicable only as part of a publicity campaign against abolition, is wide of the mark. Pressure to ban lorries has been building up for at least 10 years.

The election manifesto of the Labour Party for the 1981 GLC election, prepared under its former leadership, promised an inquiry. That long and careful investigation has been followed by intensive consultations with the individual firms affected. The modest nature of the proposed ban, including the exemption of numerous access routes leading in from the M25, testifies to the care that has been taken to limit the cost to industry.

At a more technical level, you suggest that the opening of the M25 in two years' time will deprive the ban of much of its point. The truth is that a ban is necessary in order to ensure that the M25 is used as intended and that society obtains the maximum return on its investment.

At night, when the roads are clear, there is no certainty that even the through traffic on the worst affected routes will divert to the M25 in the absence of a ban. Other flows, for

example the West Midlands to south London, which in the community's interest should go round London on the M25 and in along the appropriate radial, would continue to go through.

Yours faithfully,  
S. P. C. PLOWDEN,  
Policy Studies Institute,  
1/2 Castle Lane, SW1,  
December 17.

## Motorway crashes

From Sir Kenneth Corley

Sir, A driver in fog will always be grateful for red lights in front of him. He will cling to it even if it recedes at 70mph rather than be left to do his own pathfinding. If the leader is travelling at a proper speed this is not a bad thing to do.

I suggest that in foggy conditions vehicles on motorways should travel in convoys organized and led by the police. It would be an offence for any vehicle to travel other than in a convoy. The police are familiar with the routes; they have vehicles which are equipped with proper facilities for bad-weather conditions; they have constant communication with sources of information; and they have a driving expertise which is superior to that of most other users of the motorways.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH CORLEY,  
Yewtree,  
Wassale,  
Essex.  
December 17.

## British Council

From the President of The Publishers Association

Sir, Two master mariners, William Cooper afloat off Italy (December 5) and Anthony Swainson, apparently in "dry-dock" in the Taverna at Lord's (December 8), have seen fit to criticize the selection of books held by the British Council libraries overseas. Each refers to one book in the first case an unavailable title in Rome and in the second an available book in Tripoli, which city the British Council was forced to leave 13 years ago.

As one of many book publishers deeply involved in international marketing, I have visited quite a lot of the British Council's 111 libraries which exist in some 60 countries. And, like the master mariners, I have once or twice been surprised by books I have seen (or not seen) in them. But my overriding impression

has been of the professionalism of the local librarianship; the enthusiasm of the borrowers (often in queues to get at the shelves); and, as demonstrated by evident wear and tear, the popularity and/or usefulness of the very great majority of the books stocked. (The libraries themselves do, of course, seek to meet local needs rather than those of British visitors.)

My own view of the British Council is that it does an outstandingly successful job of winning friends for Britain, which is, broadly, its task. Books and journals play a large part in fulfilling that task and I think it is a pity that the success of their work is so undervalued in some quarters. Although other countries' equivalent organizations are much better funded, none wins friends on the scale the British Council does for us.

In short, it is truly remarkable that British Council libraries are as good and effective as they are, given the restraints imposed on them. Thus I join forces with your two correspondents in wishing that they could be enabled to be even better.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP ATTENBOROUGH,  
President,  
The Publishers Association,  
As from: Hodder & Stoughton,  
Mill Road,  
Dunton Green,  
Near Sevenoaks,  
Kent.  
December 14.

## Age of chivalry

From Mr E. G. Cameron

Sir, Mrs Dax's experience of contemporary manners (December 18) does not match my own. Standing in line this morning I was politely offered a recently vacated seat by a young woman who was standing next to me and who seemed surprised that her kind offer was not accepted. I might add that I play squash regularly and am comfortably under thirty.

Yours faithfully,  
E. G. CAMERON,  
58 Bramfield Road, SW1,  
December 20.

## COUNTRY SPORTS

The desecration of the Duke of Beaufort's grave was something quite outside previous anti-hunt campaigning. It was even more deeply offensive than the desecration of the grave of John Peel seven years ago because the family and friends of the late Duke are still alive to be given pain by the attack, as was obviously intended. The necrophilic obsession of some opponents of hunting is quite another thing to the regular comedy of the harassed Meet, and can only cause embarrassment to other campaigners who recognise the need to gain the sympathy of the public rather than to disgust it.

The case illustrates a broad in public controversy which is not confined to the animal rights field. At a certain level of righteous indignation, virtually any action comes to seem justifiable if it is motivated by zeal for the cause.

unpleasant sense of release from all moral dilemmas, is most tempting to those who know that there is no practical possibility of securing their end by persuasion. At least they secure the relief of causing pain to their opponents and of assuaging their own sense of helplessness. The same temptation lies in wait elsewhere in politics for those who have not learned that it is the art of the possible. It is strange to find it on the fringes of a cause which commands widespread sympathy already. Many people would like to see a ban on hunting of fox and deer, at least.

Hunting evokes exceptionally strong passions on both sides, reflecting deep and incompatible feelings about man's relationship with the natural world. All the efforts of the anti-hunt campaigners have not prevented a steady growth in the popularity of foxhunting in recent years. If the thriving hunt followers' associations are included, the sport is by no means the pursuit of one privileged class.

Many arguments for and against hunting can be weighed in practical terms - arguments about the humane control and conservation of certain species, about employment and the maintenance of traditional features of the landscape. But for many of those who follow the hunt, the act of hunting itself, the sense of participation in a fundamental and natural activity - however modified by custom - is deeply rewarding. For many others, this is exactly the thing that is most abominable. There is no reconciling these differences of temperament, and they clash with a mirroring intensity. But the impulses of righteous indignation are no basis for good judgement on either side. For wider society, it is important to avoid being infected with either intoxication, and to weigh more coolly the arguments about conservation, cruelty, and the degree to which a majority may be justified in inhibiting the pleasures of a minority.















## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Merrill Lynch bid speculation lifts Mercantile House

By Derek Pain

Is Mercantile House Holdings, the ambitious financial services group, about to become an American bid target? There is growing City speculation that MHH, which some believe lacks the financial muscle necessary to realise its hope of becoming a leading force in the new style British securities industry, would welcome an international link up. And the name frequently mentioned as the most likely suitor is Merrill Lynch, the largest Wall Street securities group.

MHH has made strenuous efforts to emerge as a wide ranging financial group. Two years ago it acquired Opheim Holdings, the American stockbroker and fund manager. In the past year it has taken over two discount houses, Alexander Discount and Jessel, Toyne and Gillett and taken the obligatory stockbroker stake, a 29.9 per cent holding in Laing and Cruckshank.

These moves have helped transform what was originally a money broking business into an operation which is approaching an American style financial house. MHH's activities, runs the market theory, has impressed Merrill Lynch which, despite some sharp set backs, is still keen on international expansion. It could well feel that MHH is now about the right size for a bid rather than wait until the group has grown even more and become difficult to absorb.

There was apparently a large list of MHH shares which changed hands just before Christmas. The suggestion is that Merrill Lynch acquired the shares. Yesterday, as MHH shares edged ahead 3p to 322p, there was no comment available from

Merrill Lynch's New York office nor from its London headquarters. MHH shares have been as high as 457p in the past year. Their low point was 245p. Away from the MHH speculation the market enjoyed a rather passive, but firm day. Trading was often down to the merest trickle with the odd special situation - provoking exaggerated attention.

At the close the FT 30 share index was 3 points higher at 929 points, its best level of the day. The FT-SE share index finished 5.7 points higher at 1,210.9 points. Once again equities blissfully ignored another poor sterling performance on the foreign exchange market. The pound was weighed down by oil price uncertainties and fears that US interest rates are about to creep higher.

But government securities felt the pound's discomfort, falling by up to 4p early on and hovering at the lower levels for the rest of the day.

Oil, awaiting the latest Opec decisions, were a few coppers stronger. There was, for the second trading day in succession, considerable activity on the brewery pitch with, again, Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewery, and Arthur Guinness and Sons making the running.

Speculation that a bidder, probably Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, is about to descend on Brown lifted the shares 20p to a 28p peak. In a little more than a week the shares have surged 62p.

Guinness, up 7p, to 220p, continued to draw support from its takeover of the Neighbourhood Stores business. The brewing group clearly intends to rapidly develop its convenience store operations.

Among leaders to perform well were Hanson Trust, which responded to renewed American buying, and British Telecom which climbed to 102p, mostly in late trading.

Hopes that the protracted Savoy Hotel entanglement will soon be resolved led to a rise in the shares 17p to 300p. Cons Gold gained 5p to 489p. Rival bidders C.H. Beazer, which has 22 per cent of B and P gained 10p to 372p.

Buildings William Leech, which successfully resisted an earlier Beazer takeover bid, gained 5p to 131p on the theory that if Beazer is forced to pull out of the B and P battle it will again turn its attention to another which goes away.

Powell Duffryn, which is resisting a bid from Hanson, edged ahead 2p to 425p.

Filtingham Glass responded to a favourable stockbroker comment, gaining 10p to 292p. Pineapple Dances Studios rose a further 10p to 100p. Jullias, also in the leisure sector, gained 8p to 198p.

Demand in an exceedingly thin market lifted Isle of Man Steam Ship 13p to 123p. Good Relations, weak on Christmas Eve, managed an 8p gain to 245p.

Haslemere Estates shed 2p to 500p as the Dutch investment group, Rodamco, increased its shareholding to 9.2 per cent. The Dutch group has been steadily adding to its Haslemere shareholding since it first disclosed a 5 per cent stake earlier this year.

Bank shares tended lower but insurance managed a modest array of gains.

three-wheelers, was also strong, reaching a 51p peak, up 2p. Tea shares remained in favour with Eastern Produce rising 13p to 353p.

The unexpected bid from Consolidated Goldfields for Bath and Portland Group lifted the shares 17p to 300p. Cons Gold gained 5p to 489p. Rival bidders C.H. Beazer, which has 22 per cent of B and P gained 10p to 372p.

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Henderson Administration continued to respond to its recent Far East deal, rising another 5p to 580p. Ryan Hotels, the Irish group, featured with a 14p gain to 204p on speculation that hotelier Mr Nazmu Virani may launch a bid for full control. He already has a significant shareholding in the company.

The reshaping of London Park Hotels, under the direction of Mr Mordin Jiraj, is gathering pace. Yesterday, the company paid 27 million for the Plaza Hotel, Baywater. Since Mr Jiraj won control of LPH, the old Rowton Hotels, with a 340p share offer, he has sold one London hotel, the Mount Pleasant, for £3.8 million, and acquired another, the Royal Angus, for 3 million. LPH shares were unchanged at 345p.

Mr Virani is the chairman and a big shareholder in the Bath and Portland. But it is thought that any bid will come from his privately owned hotel and property company, the Virani Group.

## RECENT ISSUES

Access Satellite Int Sp Ord (150)	Closing Price
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140)	185
Appliances A & P 10p Ord (87)	187
Breconstone 10p Ord (100)	210
CVD Inc Cam Stock 30.01 (105)	109
Cardow Int 25p Ord (100)	120.7
CGC Capital Cam Shares NPV	82
Clashley Sp Ord (100)	285-10
Customs Ltd Ord (100)	250-0
Kingway & Forester 25p Ord (250)	118
Mark-Teknik Sp Ord (80)	118
Media Technology 50p Ord (117)	181-1
PSM Int 25p (140)	187-1
Reilly & Glen 25p Ord (100)	181-1
Pharmaco 10p Ord (100)	74
Process Systems Com Stk (50.25)	85-42
Shannon Drug Stores 10p Ord (40)	118
Shore International 30p Ord (125)	118
TID Spares Sp Ord (100)	124
TID Holdings 10p Ord (110)	127
Wardle Stereops 10p (100)	22
Williams (U) Leisure Sp Ord (200)	22
Issue price in parentheses a United Securities, by tender.	

● ERF (HOLDINGS): Results for 26 weeks to Sept 27. No interim (nil). (Figs in £000). Group turnover 33,502 (27,157). Trading profit before interest and exchange fluctuations 678 (621). Exchange losses 1,164 (profit 123). Interest 607 (607). Loss, before tax, 1,093 (137 profit).

## TEMPUS

## Hard task for Beazer to match Gold Fields bid

The news on Wednesday that Consolidated Gold Fields is making an agreed £61.5 million bid for Bath and Portland Group, the quarrying and construction company, appears to set the scene for a prolonged takeover battle. But can C.H. Beazer (Holdings), the other contender for Bath and Portland's hand, match such an offer and should it be doing so?

Beazer issued a holding statement yesterday saying that it was considering its position and would not make up its mind until it had seen Gold Fields' formal offer document.

Beazer already has 22 per cent of Bath and Portland on which the potential gross profit if it sells is a tempting £2.3 million. Even so, to match, let alone better, Gold Fields' terms would be quite a task for Beazer whose market value is only £86 million.

Moreover, Beazer has been so active on the corporate front over the last few years that it could not expect to dump the amount of paper necessary to take over Bath and Portland on the market without some loss of value.

There is also the question of whether Bath and Portland is worth £61.5 million to Beazer. Aggregate reserves of the type that Bath and Portland possesses in abundance, are worth far more to Gold because of the economies of scale than to Beazer. Gold Fields, through its Arney Roadstone offshoot, is already one of the largest quarrying companies in Britain, whereas Beazer, has almost no presence in aggregates.

The Office of Fair Trading can be expected to take a close look at the Gold Fields move although in the final analysis there would appear little

chance of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference because of the lack of geographical overlap between the aggregate and ready-mixed concrete interests of the two groups.

Beazer may feel some justifiable surprise at the apparent volte-face of the Bath and Portland directors who attacked the Beazer bid because they thought Beazer might try to break the group up, only to recommend an offer from a company which has stated that it will probably sell Bath and Portland's big and fast-growing instrumentation business.

As it stands with little in the way of back-up information, Bath and Portland's estimate that profits in the year to the end of October will rise from £2.1 million to £2.8 million is a little inadequate. Nevertheless, Beazer is going to find it difficult to match Gold Fields' fire power.

## US bonds

US bonds faltered again yesterday, as the Fed funds rate climbed over 8 per cent, reflecting year-end liquidity pressures. Bonds have been mixed throughout the Christmas season. Even a cut in the Fed discount rate to 8 per cent has failed to bring in the speculators.

The problem for US bonds is that most holders now feel that the Fed may be forced to tighten fairly shortly, as the impact of its easier money policies feeds through quickly to the real economy. Broad money has been growing rapidly since late summer. The money measures M2 and M3, for example, have been expanding at about 9 per cent, compared with an M1 forwirth rate of less than 5 per cent.

Early December car sales were strong, improving to a seasonally adjusted 1 million (November 7.1 million), and such buoyancy is in line with the general pick-up in consumer confidence.

The counterpart to the spending recovery lies not in the output data-non-car production rose only 0.1 per cent in November, but in the continued deterioration of the US current account. The third quarter outcome was appalling, even by US standards.

A merchandise trade deficit of \$33 billion (Q2-\$26 billion) was almost unchanged at the current account level, indicating just how fast the traditional invisibles surplus is eroding. November trade figures today could show a \$12 billion deficit, putting the US in line for a possible \$130 billion deficit in 1985.

Against this background, the vogue defensive switch may well be into West German bonds, despite this year's good performance, and the threat of more political risk-related scandals in the new year.

The appeal of the switch lies mainly in the strength of the West German economy. No prospective bond-holder could argue with some of the key German data. Industrial production is growing at 5 per cent, and central bank money at almost 5 per cent. German inflation should average about 2½ per cent next year.

But according to the market, the switch may be only temporary. Dollar bond yields may back up to about 12½ per cent in early 1985, assuming the Fed is forced to reverse its easy money stance, and protect the dollar. At that point US bonds will look attractive again.

## Bank chief predicts a boom in lending

By Our City Staff

Mr Philip Wilkinson, group chief executive of National Westminster Bank, yesterday predicted a bank lending boom next year.

But he played down fears that this would lead to a surge in interest rates. In a new year message to the public, Mr Wilkinson forecast a "fairly healthy rebound" in British economic growth. He added: "As the international financial scene becomes more settled, we see realistic prospects that base rates and other United Kingdom interest rates will remain at moderate levels in 1985, helping to sustain economic activity."

Many jobs were being created through the expansion of small firms and the decision by more people to become self-employed. This would increase demand for bank finance. Mr Wilkinson concluded: "Although unemployment is, still a matter for concern, encouragement can be drawn from the increasing productivity of British industry and the rise in the employed labour force."

Mr Philip Wilkinson: healthy economic growth forecast

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Mr Wilkinson concluded: "Although unemployment is, still a matter for concern, encouragement can be drawn from the increasing productivity of British industry and the rise in the employed labour force."

## PRIME EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY FOR SALE

## NEW YORK CITY

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority are offering for sale the property known as the East Side Airlines Terminal located at 37th and 38th Streets between First and Second Avenues in Manhattan. The site approximately 81,173 square feet and contains a 226,000 square foot two story building and garage. The sale will be conducted by auction.

For further information or a copy of the invitation and auction procedures, please contact:

Wendy Blair  
MTA Real Estate  
347 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10017, U.S.A.  
(212) 878-7394

## House prices up by 14 per cent

By Richard Thomson

Britain's third largest building society, the Nationwide, brought good news to home owners yesterday with figures showing a 14 per cent rise in average house prices during 1984 - 2 per cent more than the rise last year.

But the figures revealed wide regional variations. As did a survey on 1984 house price rises carried out by the Anglia Building Society, which showed discrepancies of up to 50 per cent.

The Nationwide's figures show that average house price rises easily exceeded the 5 per cent retail price increase and the 7 per cent increase in average earnings over the year.

Greater London had the biggest price increases, averaging 17 per cent in the year, closely followed by the outer South-East area where prices increased by 16 per cent. Prices rose by only 8 per cent in Northern Ireland and 9 per cent in Scotland.

The average price of a home now is £32,810 and the average mortgage advance is £22,850, representing 70 per cent of the average price.

Regionally, the most expensive areas were in the outer metropolitan area, where the average price was £43,650.

The cheapest areas were Yorkshire and Humberside,

where the average price was £25,020, and the northern region where the average price was £25,440.

House prices nationally rose by 4 per cent in the fourth-quarter of 1984 with stable house prices in the third-quarter.

Demand in the normally quiet pre-Christmas period appears to have been stimulated by November's cut in mortgage rates and the ready availability of mortgage funds. This unseasonal strong demand was reflected in the marked rise in almost all regions.

The Anglia Building Society's figures indicate prices in London and the South-east rose by 10.5 per cent in 1984, but in the North by 5.6 per cent. They also show that the value of 1919 houses relative to other house prices had been hit by poor availability of improvement grants and the imposition of value added tax on home improvements.

Meanwhile, the Woolwich - the fifth biggest building society - has confirmed that it will install about 40 cash dispenser machines next year in larger branches, mainly in the South.

The Woolwich is one of seven societies involved in developing the electronic funds transfer system and will link its machines to those of the other societies when the system is launched next year.

## Clyde seeks \$30m for US oil and gas interests

By Cliff Feltham

Clyde Petroleum, which has a substantial stake in the Wyth Farm oilfield in Dorset, is putting its American oil and gas interests up for sale. It hopes to get at least \$30 million (£35 million) for them.

The exploration acreage which stretches through five states but mainly Texas and Oklahoma is expected to produce a net income of more than \$10.5 million next year.

Clyde's chief executive Mr John Courty, said a combination of factors have led the group to pull out, including the sliding oil price. He added: "We now believe we can make more profit elsewhere without the hard slog in the United States. We don't feel that without a great deal of investment it could grow at more than 10 to 15 per cent a year."

Clyde, having established a firm base in Britain through the acquisition of a 7.5 per cent stake in Wyth Farm, now believed it could find suitable opportunities in Britain and north west Europe "which were more relevant to the scale of Clyde's future operations than the United States."

## Philippines in debt plea

Manila, (Reuters) - The Philippines will ask for a further moratorium on repayment of principal on its \$26 billion (£21.6 billion) foreign debt when the present moratorium expires next month, Mr Cesar Virata, the Prime Minister, said.

"We will seek a continuation of the present standstill agreement which expires in the first

week in January," he told a press conference.

The Philippines imposed the moratorium in October 1983 and it has been extended in 90-day intervals.

This month, the International Monetary Fund approved a standby credit of 615 million special drawing rights as part of a rescue package that included rescheduling about \$5.75 billion owed to commercial banks as well as \$925 million in new loans and \$3 billion in trade credits.

Mr Virata said the Philippines would have to seek continuation of the moratorium because discussions with its advisory group of creditor banks on the package agreed with the IMF have not yet started.

Mr Virata said: "In the coming months, we have to meet the advisory group in order to clear the documentation for the new money facility and the trade facility."

"We have to seek endorsement of what we have agreed upon with the Paris Club members of official creditors."

Mr Virata said the Philippines may also have to ask for another extension beyond the one now being requested, taking the moratorium into June.

He thought the next extension would be for another 90 days but that would depend on when the advisory committee expected to disburse the funds and when all of the restructuring agreements were in place.

● Sao Paulo (Reuters) - Brazil's commercial bank creditors are prepared to grant Brazil a multi-year rescheduling deal for its foreign debt. Negotiations on the details of the pact will resume in New York next Thursday, Central bank officials said.

The financial newspaper, *Gazeta Mercantil*, said in a report from Washington that Brazil is seeking to reschedule \$51 billion falling due up to the end of 1991, while the banks offered to renegotiate \$17 billion worth of debt expiring between 1985 and 1990.

The Brazilian proposal calls for the debt to be rescheduled over 16 years, but the banks would prefer 14 years, it said.

The banks made no specific counter proposal to Brazil's request for an eight-year grace period, the news paper added.

## THE 'SHELL' TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, P.L.C.

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the register will be struck on Friday, 4th January, 1985 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on THE SECOND PREFERENCE SHARES, for the six months ended 31st January, 1985. The dividend will be paid on 1st February, 1985.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyd's Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 4th January, 1985.

Shell Centre, By Order of London, SE1 7NA the Board  
28th December D.W. Chesterton Company Secretary

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any shares or Subscription Certificates



## Continental Illinois Corporation

(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Delaware in the United States of America)

Authorised  
400,000,000

Shares of Common Stock of \$1.00 par value  
including 203,835,566 reserved for issue

Subscription Certificates  
to subscribe for 40,323,239 shares of  
Common Stock of \$1.00 par value

Issued and reserved  
for issue at  
21st December, 1984

244,158,805

Continental Illinois Corporation provides, through its subsidiaries, a range of commercial, personal, trust and money market services to individuals, businesses and Governmental entities.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the above-mentioned shares of Common Stock and Subscription Certificates to be admitted to the Official List.

Particulars relating to Continental Illinois Corporation are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 10th January, 1985 from:

Cazenove & Co.  
12 Tokenhouse Yard  
London EC2R 7AN

28th December, 1984

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## Continental Illinois Holding Corporation

(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Delaware in the United States of America)

Authorised  
11,000,000

Shares of Common Stock of \$1.00 par value

Issued at  
21st December, 1984

40,323,239

Continental Illinois Holding Corporation's (the "Corporation") only purpose is to hold 40,323,239 shares of Common Stock of \$1.00 par value of its subsidiary, Continental Illinois Corporation ("CIC"), subject to the "FDIC Option" whereby the Corporation has granted to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") an option to purchase up to all of the Corporation's holding of CIC Common Stock. The purpose of the FDIC Option is to compensate the FDIC in the event of losses on loans purchased from the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago (the "Bank"), a subsidiary of CIC, which it has assumed under a plan to restructure CIC and provide financial assistance to the Bank.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the issued shares of Common Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Particulars relating to the Corporation and CIC are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 10th January, 1985 from:

Cazenove & Co.  
12 Tokenhouse Yard  
London EC2R 7AN

28th December, 1984











RACING: CATCH PHRASE HAS CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OBJECTIVE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIVE KEMPTON VICTORY

# Fontwell prize at mercy of progressive Joy Ride

By Mandarin

Joy Ride, one of the season's most promising newcomers, has outstanding claims in the £3,000 Salmon Spray Hurdle at Fontwell Park this afternoon. Jeff King's depth in the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle at Ascot 13 days ago but produced an excellent performance to chase home Sec You. Then, this year's Triumph Hurdle runner-up.

Although Sec You then let the form down on Wednesday when a well-beaten third in the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle, it was none the less a fine effort by Joy Ride to beat the more experienced pair, Desert Orchid and Northern Trail.

The best of the opposition today should be Avon, who has also taken well to hurdling. However, Joy Ride beat that rival by two and a half lengths when both made their hurdling debut at Windsor last month and they meet here on identical terms.

Diamond High, beaten only two heads on his first run over hurdles at Lingfield Park last Saturday, made a quick reappearance in the first division of the Brighton Novices' Hurdle and should prove too good for it Saracene.

West Tip entered many a notebook when finishing third to Sabon Du Loir and Dawn Run in the 1983 Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival and enjoyed a successful first campaign over fences last season with victories at Wolverhampton and Haydock Park and a fine second to Ballinacura Lad in the Embassy Premier Chase at Ascot.

He was slightly disappointing when only seventh in the Sun Alliance Chase last March but even on that form has a sound chance here as he is 11lb better off than Ardent Spy, who finished only just ahead of him in sixth.

Although backward on his reappearance at Warwick a fortnight ago, West Tip ran well to finish sixth to the much-improved Run And Skip and will strip much finer this afternoon. He stays well, acts in heavy going and should take full advantage of the handicapper's generosity.

Making an even better reappearance is Nines Apollo, a comfortable winner at Wetherby on Boxing Day.



Sharp contrast: Charcoal Wally is silhouetted against the Sumbury skyline during yesterday's Ladbrokes Novices' Hurdle qualifier at Kempton. The five-year-old finished second to Firing Party (Photograph: Chris Cole)

## Hurst and Beau Ranger ride again

By Michael Seely

Beau Ranger and John Hurst continued their triumphant march forward at Kempton yesterday. Remarkably surviving a last fence blunder, this indomitable pair added the Ladbrokes Hurdle Chase to the laurels they have already enjoyed at Cheltenham. The Warwick card also features the day's most intriguing race, the Edward Courage Cup, in which all four runners can be given a chance on their best form. However, the handicapper appears to have taken a lenient view of West Tip's ability and Michael Oliver's seven-year-old is named to beat Ardent Spy, Rupertian and Scot Lane.

It has been marvellous to watch the confidence shared between John Hurst's improving five-year-old and his young Birmingham-born partner this autumn as they have bowled happily along this season. Mistakes at the third fence from home nearly deprived them of success at Sandown and at Cheltenham. But yesterday it was the final obstacle that nearly proved their downfall.

"It must have been my fault," Hurst said. "I asked him to stand back, but the message must have gone wrong. He put in a short one instead. However, he didn't seem to want to get rid of me and I certainly didn't want to lose him."

Beau Ranger, beat Leas Ar Agaligh by eight lengths with the performance of Catch Phrase, who won four races off the reet last

season, including the Challow Hurdle at Newbury. "I thought he got so tired today and it was the first time he has lost a proper over fence. He was going well enough when he fell at the tricky downhill fence in Leas Ar Agaligh's race at Cheltenham."

For once John Francome had a disappointing afternoon. Apart from the poor performance by Craved Opal, the reigning champion had an earlier setback when The Perfect fell at the third fence from home in the Kennington Oval Novices' Chase.

The 15-8 on favourite had just been headed by The Foodbroker, who galloped on strongly to beat Aren't We All by 20 lengths after The Roadster had come to grief at the final jump. This victory continued a remarkable spell of unbeaten success for Peter Haynes. "That's my fifteenth winner of the season," the Chichester trainer said.

The Foodbroker has taken well to fences and Haynes now plans to aim the Chichester five-year-old at the Arkle Challenge Trophy at the National Hunt Festival.

## Excursion's success has family flavour

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Excursion's exciting win in the £20,000 Findus Handicap Chase at Leopardstown yesterday was a family affair. The gelding is trained in the north of Ireland by George Stewart for his wife, Rosemary, who also rode the eight-year-old to victory.

Mrs Stewart's sister, Ann Ferris, made history in the spring when she partnered Beasby to win the Irish Grand National race in which Mrs Stewart finished third on Dawson Prince.

Yesterday's race was one of changing fortunes. Rainbow Warrior taking a commanding lead at the third last fence only to fall at the second last. This left Excursion holding a slight lead over the favourite, Hard Case, and The Miller, with Excursion making up ground on the outside. The quartered up to the final fence almost together, but here Excursion appeared to take the ground of Hard Case, who fell.

Mrs Stewart managed to straighten Excursion out and he strode away to win by eight lengths. This was a fine defeat over fences for Hard Case, thus ending his remarkable record of 1984: eight successive wins over hurdles and fences.

George Stewart vetoed the suggestion that Excursion would be named the Aintree Grand National, which is already the target for Beasby Boy. He plans to bring Excursion back to Leopardstown in February for the Harold Clarke Memorial Chase.

The big disappointment for racers was the non-appearance in the Findus Handicap Hurdle of Ararun. He twisted a shoe on Wednesday night and was slightly lame after his hoof was treated one of the oaks. Paddy Mullins said it was an injury of no consequence as far as the horse's future is concerned. In Ararun's absence, victory went to the odds-on favourite, Polar Bear.

Mullins will be hoping for better luck with the top weight, Passage Creeper, in the Black and White Whisky Handicap Hurdle. This victory would be a big boost for the trainer, who believes that Killikullen will provide him with compensation for the fall of Hard Case by winning the handicap chase, sponsored by the same firm.

## The history of an eccentric elite

By Peter Ryde

There must be some golf clubs approaching their century in which long history nothing of the slightest interest, except to their membership, has ever occurred. But there are others, not only championship courses whose history is of more than local interest, but also because of some special circumstance or the strength of the personalities involved.

Diligently researched, such a history can become a canon of social change, a repository of character study and anecdote. Such is the case with Rye Golf Club, whose first 90 years have been devoted to research by Denis Alder in *Rye Golf Club 1894-1984* (Rye Golf Club, £12.50). The author's family has been associated with the club since its early days and the book is a slim, elegant hardback which it is a pleasure to pluck from the shelves.

From the start Rye has attracted an elite membership. A. J. Balfour joined, and another Prime Minister, Lloyd George, also played there, with rather less success. The Law was well represented, Mr Justice Avory took an interest and became its president, causing caddies to quake and fighting a running battle with under-dressed sunbathers in the nearby dunes.

The club had a secretary to match its eccentric character. A formidable local lady, stormed into the office of Deane Vincent - whose son, Deane, became a sports correspondent for *The Times* - complaining that one of the grounds had been abused in her presence. Vincent asked for a description, and on being told that "Ah, Rye would be I've been here since 1904."

Containing the lively story of a club that is renowned for the toughness of its winter greens and for its hospitality to visiting sportsmen, the book is a must for the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, whose annual President's Putter will be renewed there in January, the 90th pages are adorned by sketches. They were drawn by A. H. Graham, known to a wider public and himself a former captain of the club.

Boxing

## World title bout for Magri

By Peter Ryde

Charlie Magri's bout for the world flyweight championship was officially confirmed yesterday, with the prospect of Frank Warren, Bangkok, signed by the defending champion, Soth Chitlada, of Thailand.

Terry Lawless, the manager of Magri (above), had agreed to sign for the prospect, Frank Warren, provided the champion's signature could be produced on a contract within 21 days. The condition was fulfilled with more than a week to spare, and the contest goes on at the Alexandra Pavilion, London, on February 26.

This will be Warren's second world title bout within the space of 32 days, after last staging the welterweight championship meeting between the American, Don Curry and Colin Jones, in Birmingham on January 19.

It will be Magri's first contest away from the home of his parents, Mike Barrett and Mickey Duff. It will also be his third world championship bout, he won and lost the title in the space of six months in 1983.

Table Tennis

## Getting in a spin for victory

By Peter Ryde

Pepping (AP) Using an inverted grip and perfecting the dimples on a ball, Chinese, have emerged as experts at table tennis. Now they have invented a device to further perfect their game: an instrument that will speed up the spin of a spinning table tennis ball.

In one recent test, a loop shot by Wang Huiyuan spun at 171 revolutions per second - faster than a spin engine. The official Chinese news agency said yesterday in reporting the invention by the Ministry of Electronic Industry.

The instrument can also test a player's spin-dimple and the difference in the spinning speed of a spinning ball exchanged by two players, the report said.

Skiing

## Snow seekers

By Peter Ryde

Berne (Reuters) - Two World Cup alpine skiing events postponed this month for lack of snow will now take place in January, the International Skiing Federation said yesterday. The men's downhill competition planned for December 6 in Val d'Isere has been moved to Kitzbühel, on January 11, and that planned for Bormio, Italy, on December 22 will be held in Davos, Switzerland, on January 18.

Football

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 United vs

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.

Football

Colchester United v Port Vale.















## Austin Rover to recruit 600

By Clifford Webb  
Motoring Correspondent

Austin Rover is recruiting 600 more workers in the new year to increase production of four new models: the five-door Metro, the 1.6 Rover, the Montego estate car and the Maestro van.

Four hundred workers will be taken on at Longbridge, Birmingham, to increase output of Metros from 3,800 a week to 4,100 and to prepare for the launch of the 1.6 litre Rover 200.

That car is a more powerful version of the 1.3 litre Rover which appeared in June and it will use an Austin Rover engine in place of the Japanese power unit. Its production will enable production of the mid-range Rover family to be increased from 1,200 a week to 1,600.

Two hundred workers will be taken on at Cowley, Oxfordshire, where the management has been struggling unsuccessfully to reach production targets for most of the year.

The additional workers will enable Cowley to be brought into line with the much more efficient Longbridge plant.

Traditional tea breaks with the assembly tracks halted are estimated to cost nearly 10 per cent of Cowley's output. Now they will be replaced by phased tea breaks taken without stopping the tracks.

A few workers at a time will be relieved by employees known as "slip men". Many of the 200 new workers will become "slip men".

Delays in building up production of the Montego estate at Cowley have cost the company dearly since the car was launched nearly three months ago. It is being hailed as the estate car of the year.



Abandoned: A forlorn face that says it all. (Photographs: Orde Eliason).

## Abandoned victims of festive season

By Robin Young

Two thousand people visited Battersea Dogs Home yesterday and carried away nearly 100 of the 723 dogs of all shapes and sizes which had ended up there after Christmas.

There is still severe overcrowding in the 124-year-old charity's kennels, because more abandoned animals were being taken in as fast as others were being adopted.

About a twelfth of the dogs which arrive are thoroughbreds, and rather more are puppies. The number reclaimed by their owners varies little from about 15 per cent, leaving the home to find new owners for 17,000 dogs a year.

"We have some wonderful dogs which would make wonderful pets for a lot of people," Mr Bill Wadman-Taylor, manager of the home, said yesterday. "Overcrowding has been building up over the weeks before Christmas and though our declared policy is never to put down healthy animals over-crowding does increase risks of infection. Having a dog now might be saving its life."

The home is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm for the sale of dogs, except for New Year's Day it takes in newly abandoned strays 24 hours a day.

If last year is anything to go by the worst of the Christmas influx is yet to come.



Found: Mr Owen Gardner and his son, Richard, take this pup to a new home in Richmond, Surrey.



Hoping... for someone less fickle

## Not enough drivers 'stay low' at Christmas

Continued from page 1

those arrested for drink-driving offences overall remained roughly constant.

Other counties reporting a slight increase in the number of motorists failing breath tests were Lincolnshire and Kent.

On Merseyside and in the Glasgow area the total of drink-driving offences fell slightly. A spokeswoman for Strathclyde police said that 43 cases had been reported during the three days up to and including Boxing Day compared with 55 last year. Spokesmen for Cheshire and South Wales police forces said that positive breath tests were at roughly the same level as for 1983.

All of the police forces contacted by *The Times* stressed that the end-of-year campaign against drunken drivers still had nearly a week to run and this could affect the final trend. But if the final figures reflect any upsurge in drink-driving cases, the Department of Transport will undoubtedly be criticized by road safety authorities for its low-key advice to Christmas and New Year revellers.

Instead of calling for a complete ban on alcohol, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for transport, urged drivers to limit their drinking under the slogan: "Stay low or you might live to regret it."

## Man-made comet launched

Continued from page 1

Creation of the "Christmas comet" had been set for December 25, but was postponed by bad weather. Mr Onley said data from the British satellite, travelling just behind the West German one, would be relayed to British scientists.

The aims of the experiment are to see how comets are formed and how the solar wind interacts with the Earth's magnetic field.

Natural comets are thought to be made of ice and dust that travel around the Sun in elliptical orbits.

Researchers said the artificial comet, formed when the sun makes the barium atoms radiate coloured light, would help them to adjust instruments for the appearance in autumn of the Glaciovini Zinner comet and for Halley's comet in 1985-86.

## Traveller with a mission

### Man in blazer with cargo of secrets

The passengers on the early morning Air Sinai flight from Cairo to Tel Aviv gazed with a mixture of annoyance and curiosity as they waited impatiently behind the unmistakably British-looking figure in a blue blazer who was shepherding an apparently endless collection of bulky white canvas bags into the plane.

Had they recognized the leaping silver greyhound on his blue tie (an emblem whose history dates back to the reign of Charles II) or been able to inspect his maroon passport, they might have realized that the cause of the delay was a Queen's Messenger, one of the elite corps of around 30 couriers who unobtrusively carry vital communications between far-flung networks of British diplomatic outposts.

Their baggage may contain secret intelligence assessments, even pieces of security equipment such as replacement parts for cipher machines. But they do not carry arms. Behind the iron curtain, they are always given a British escort.

As the Egyptian-piloted jet made an uneasy take-off on a route which still remains a prestige target for Palestinian extremists opposed to Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the retired naval commander from Dorset kept a close eye on his cargo spread across three adjacent seats. Over a breakfast of rubbery cheese and lukewarm coffee, he explained some of the quirks of a job which involves an average of 250,000 miles of air travel a year - more than some airline pilots.

Members of the corps, headed by a superintendent in London, were ex-servicemen recruited through an old boy network whose guidelines had never been clearly defined. "Basically, you suddenly find yourself being asked whether you want to become a Queen's Messenger," he told me. "They then ask you questions, like what would you do in the event of a hijacking, and you attempt not to give too damned silly an answer."

Demanding and securing absolute loyalty from its tight-knit membership, the corps engenders considerable pride among those who serve in it. But the feeling is growing that, due to financial cutbacks, the perks in terms of prestigious invitations at the various diplomatic ports of call have

been dropping away. "Once you have safely handed over your bags, you are often left to your own devices," the courier explained, amid smiles from the young Arab air hostess, who seemed to regard the whole procedure like something out of a spy novel.

The little-publicized activities of the service suddenly emerged from the shadows with the publication in 1982 of a thriller entitled *The Queen's Messenger* by Robert Duncan. Written with strict Foreign Office vetting, the idea was sparked by a chance encounter in a Singapore bar between the author and one of the messengers, Lieutenant-Colonel John Kimmins. A taste of the style is given by the blurb: "At Hong Kong airport, the unthinkable happens. A Queen's Messenger, a highly trusted diplomatic courier, goes missing - and with him a key dispatch from a top secret Western intelligence source, deep in the Communist-infested jungles of Thailand."

The highly readable book takes as its starting point the most exotic of the journeys regularly undertaken by the messengers, the 36-hour train run from Peking to the British Embassy in the remote Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator. My travelling companion said he had made the journey several times in recent years.

It was apparent that he and his fellow messengers were not overly taken with the seamy side of Mr Duncan's book, which recently appeared in paperback. "The facts as they went were fairly accurate, but there was too much sex," he explained.

The messenger was reluctant to go into detail about the conditions of service, beyond stating with undisguised approval that the key was the understanding that the loss of a single bag would mean immediately forfeiting the job - which is understandably much coveted by ex-British service officers with a yen for travel to far away places. An exception had been made, he explained, when some bags were blown up after a hijacking. Even then, the courier had been asked on his return to the Foreign Office "why he had not stayed with the ashes".

Christopher Walker

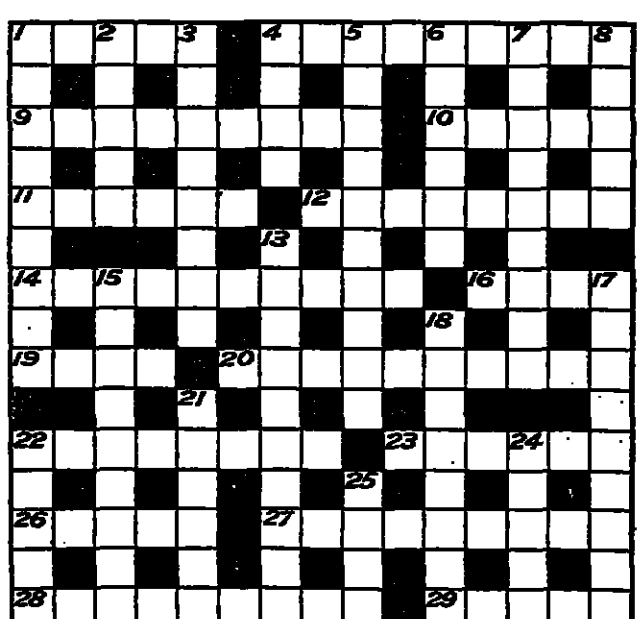
## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### The sales

#### Starting today

John Lewis, Oxford Street, Brent Cross (ends January 3); Penelope, Sloane Square (ends January 5); Jones Bros Holloway Road (ends January 5); Selfridges, Oxford Street (ends January 31); Heals Tottenham Court Road and Tinsdale, Guildford, Surrey (ends January 26); John Lewis (London and countrywide).

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,621



#### ACROSS

- Female given thirty days after demonstration (5).
- Seemingly changing mood in Hugo's character (9).
- Like Figue's calling to Rosina, perhaps the start of love (9).
- Gates both ajar, letting in returning prince (5).
- Spot finally making pot (6).
- Sweetness (6).
- Getting committed to filling in forms under pressure (3-7).
- Neat feature of Shanks's pony (4).
- Colourful band taking pains so no speak (4).
- O when written for a sweetheart (4,6).
- Unwillingly allow plea to Barnaby (8).
- Charm a stubborn one with a thickhead (6).
- Becomes a member through connections (5).
- Tout risks harassment in fringe area (9).
- Vulnerable to rash (9).
- Shanks's forte sounds the same at the end (5).

#### DOWN

- Dump nothing in the mountains opposite (9).
- Athlete's way to show the flag (3,2).
- Man perhaps said to be King (6).
- Sally (not Miss Brass) causes Daniel to lose pound (4).

Prize Crossword in *The Times* tomorrow

### Continuing

British Home Stores (London and countrywide); Ki West Furs, 21 Heddon St, Regent St, Jaeger (London and countrywide); Regent China Shop (London and countrywide); Alders, Croydon; Woolworth (London and countrywide); Debenhams (all branches); Allerton (London and countrywide); Boots (London and countrywide); John Lewis, Edinburgh (only); Scotch House (all branches except Knightsbridge); Barkers, Kensington.

Burberry's (Regent Street and Haymarket branches); Liberty, Regent St; Aquascutum, (all branches); Balby, (London and Countrywide); Littlewoods (London and Countrywide); Austin Reed, (London and Countrywide); D H Evans, Oxford Street; Wood Green (all branches); Bruton Street, W1; Newcastle and Leicester; Laura Ashley, all branches; Warehouse, all branches; Principles, all branches; Friends, South Molton Street, W1 and branches; Chelsea Girl, all branches; Monsoon, all branches; Midas, Hans Crescent, SW1; Wallis, all branches; Habitat, all branches; Roland Klein, Bruton Street, W1; Army & Navy, Victoria, SW1 and stores; Arncliffe, all stores; Frasers, all stores excluding Glasgow and Edinburgh; Binns, all stores; Lewis's, all stores.

Dickens and Jones, (London and countrywide); Regent Street; Richmond; Milner Keynes; Simpson, Piccadilly; Country Casuals, (London and countrywide); Mothercare, (London and countrywide).

### Anniversaries

João Domingos Bontempo, pianist and composer, born 1775; Sir Archibald Geikie, geologist, born 1835; Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of USA, 1913-1920, born 1856; Sir John Fortescue, military historian, born 1859.

Deaths: Lord Macanley, 1859; Maurice Ravel, composer, 1937; Vittorio Emanuele III, ex-king of Italy, 1947.

### Today's events

Last chance to see *Pastels* by Francesco Clemente, Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon 10 to 6 (ends today).

### Snow reports

FRANCE	Depth (cm)	State of Frost	Weather
Algeria	-	U	Clear
Alps d'Huez	-	U	Clear
Chamonix	-	U	Clear
Geneva	-	U	Clear
Paris	-	U	Clear
Strasbourg	-	U	Clear
La Corbiere	-	U	Clear
La Plagne	-	U	Clear
La Tignes	-	U	Clear
Les Arins	-	U	Clear
Les Contamines	-	U	Clear
Les Deux Alpes	-	U	Clear
Les Gets	-	U	Clear
Les Menuires	-	U	Clear
Magnifique	-	U	Clear
Meribel	-	U	Clear
Montgenevre	-	U	Clear
Pré-Alpes	-	U	Clear
St Gervais	-	U	Clear
Superbalise	-	U	Clear
Val d'Aoste	-	U	Clear

### SPAIN

Depth (cm)	State of Frost	Weather
Barajas-Barcel	-	U
Carlet	-	U
Formentor	-	U
La Alfranca	-	U
Manisa	-	U
San Pedro	-	U
Soyre	-	U

### (London and countrywide)

John Lewis, Edinburgh (only); Scotch House (all branches except Knightsbridge); Barkers, Kensington.

Burberry's (Regent Street and Haymarket branches); Liberty, Regent St; Aquascutum, (all branches); Balby, (London and Countrywide); Littlewoods (London and Countrywide); Austin Reed, (London and Countrywide); D H Evans, Oxford Street; Wood Green (all branches); Bruton Street, W1; Newcastle and Leicester; Laura Ashley, all branches; Warehouse, all branches; Principles, all branches; Friends, South Molton Street, W1 and branches; Chelsea Girl, all branches; Monsoon, all branches; Midas, Hans Crescent, SW1; Wallis, all branches; Habitat, all branches; Roland Klein, Bruton Street, W1; Army & Navy, Victoria, SW1 and stores; Arncliffe, all stores; Frasers, all stores excluding Glasgow and Edinburgh; Binns, all stores; Lewis's, all stores.

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La Plagne	-	U	Clear
La Tignes	-	U	Clear
Les Arins	-	U	Clear
Les Contamines	-	U	Clear
Les Deux Alpes	-	U	Clear
Les Gets	-	U	Clear
Les Menuires	-	U	Clear
Magnifique	-	U	Clear
Meribel	-	U	Clear
Montgenevre	-	U	Clear
Pré-Alpes	-	U	Clear
St Gervais	-	U	Clear
Superbalise	-	U	Clear
Val d'Aoste	-	U	Clear

### SPAIN

Depth (cm)	State of Frost	Weather
Barajas-Barcel	-	U
Carlet	-	U
Formentor	-	U
La Alfranca	-	U
Manisa	-	U
San Pedro	-	U
Soyre	-	U

### Food prices

Financial and digestive hangovers may be eased, and New Year resolutions encouraged, by the knowledge that fruit and vegetables are likely to remain cheap and plentiful. The British Farm Produce Council predicts that there will be a surplus of potatoes (whites 2-10p a lb, reds 9-13p a lb) and almost too many carrots (8-14p a lb).

Onions, at 15-20p a lb, Swedes, at 10-16p a lb, turnips at 14-25p a lb and cauliflowers at 15-25p are also in abundant supply. The same goes for cabbages at 12-20p a lb, kale at 18-22p and Brussels sprouts 15-20p, the last an exception among winter greens being cauliflowers, which are scarcer and dearer than usual.

Salted ingredients, such as lettuce, tomatoes, celery and cucumber are in seasonal short supply and relatively expensive, but Christmas leaves, at 40-50p a lb, and celery loose at 30-35p a head, and prepacks at 40-50p are good buys. Findus have recently introduced frozen New Zealand asparagus spears at £1.49 a 200-gram carton. There are lots of apples - Cox's at 25-40p a lb, golden delicious, 25-35p, and pears 25-35p. New season Canary Island, Israeli and South African avocados are 30p to 50p each.

Meat prices are unlikely to show much change in the festive Christmas period, but British Home Stores have a six-week food promotion, with rump steak reduced to £2.59 a lb, stewing steak at £1.19, brisket at £1.69, mince at 99p and fresh whole chickens at 79p a lb. Sainsbury's have beef topside at £1.98 a lb.

### Top video rentals

- Trading Places
- The Untouchables
- The Empire Strikes Back
- Supergirl
- Uncle Sam
- Education
- Yours Truly
- Yours Truly
- Yours Truly
- Yours Truly

### The pound

	Bank	Spot
Australia	1.45	1.45
Belgium	1.45	1.45
Canada	1.45	1.45
Denmark	1.45	1.45
France	1.45	1.45
Germany	1.45	1.45
Greece	1.45	1.45
Italy	1.45	1.45
Japan	1.45	1.45
Netherlands	1.45	1.45
Portugal	1.45	1.45
Spain	1.45	1.45
Sweden	1.45	1.45
Switzerland	1.45	1.45
USA	1.45	1.45

Supplied by Video Business

### Roads

London and South East A315: Temporary lights and single alternate traffic in Kensington High Street at junction with Old Court Place, M3. Contraflow on London-bound carriageway at junction 1 at Sunbury Cross flyover and A16 approach road, A249/M26: Diversion via Chiltern Hundreds roundabout to Delling, Kent.

Midlands: A12: Temporary signals on Lowestoft to Yoxford road at Wrentham, A57: One lane with temporary lights near Lincoln racecourse, Lincolnshire. A1: Lane closure, northbound at junction 14, Alconbury flyover.

North A6125: Roadworks, with delays on Great North Road, Newcastle. A5805: Bridge building on Waterloo Park, on Blackpool Road, Preston Lancashire. A562: Single-lane traffic, with delays at Stanley Brook, Warrington, Cheshire.

Wales and West A30: Temporary lights on Oakhampton to Launceston road, Devon. A31: Stop/go hours at Roger Hill, Here Regis. A491: Northbound carriageway closed; contraflow on south-bound carriageway, in Swindon.

South East A1: Traffic lights W of Truro, East Lothian. A978: Waverley Place and Albert Street, Aberdeen, closed.

Information supplied by AA.

### Swiss speeds

The Swiss Government has announced the following new speed limits in the republic from January 1: In built-up areas, 50 kph; outside built-up areas 80 kph; motorways 120 kph. Diverging speed indications are clearly marked. The limits are to be monitored by radar.

### Portfolio

Monday - Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Monday - Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

How to claim: The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-63272 before 10.00 am and 5.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches the Times Portfolio dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call the Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated hours.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to both delay and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse.

The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Times Portfolio is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

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## Weather forecast

Pressure will be high to E of the British Isles as a trough of low pressure crosses NW from the Atlantic.

### 6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N, NE England, E Midlands: Fog patches mostly clearing, sunny periods, dry, variable, light. Max temp 5-6°C (41-43°F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Fog patches, mostly clearing, sunny periods, dry, becoming cloudy late, wind variable, light. Max temp 5-7°C (41-45°F).

S, N, Wales, NW England: Mostly dry, sunny, becoming cloudy late, wind variable, light. Max temp 5-7°C (41-45°F).

Wales and West A30: Temporary lights on Oakhampton to Launceston road, Devon. A31: Stop/go hours at Roger Hill, Here Regis. A491: Northbound carriageway closed; contraflow on south-bound carriageway, in Swindon.

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